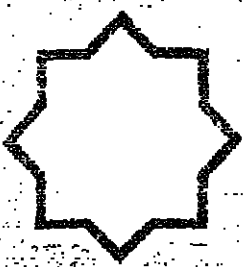


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AMMAN, 15 — 21 AUGUST, 1996, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 14, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Kabariti wins battle but 23 deputies call on him to resign House overrides its own recommendations to alter government bread policy

By Hamdan Al Hajj

Special to The Star
THE GOVERNMENT won an important battle during Wednesday's session of the Lower House when deputies turned down recommendations made by a special House committee on wheat subsidies. Of the 52 deputies attending the session, only 23 voted to adopt the recommendations which contradicted with the latest government policy that ended a 20-year-old direct subsidies program of wheat.

But while Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti was savoring his victory, 23 opposition deputies, who had walked out of the House's sessions two weeks ago to protest lack of television coverage of their speeches, launched a bitter attack on Mr. Kabariti calling on him to resign adding that his government had lost all credibility.

Wednesday's session was held to discuss the proposals of a special Parliamentary committee that was formed to study the government's policy on changing the means of wheat and fod-



der subsidy. The government announced new prices of bread and fodder on Monday even before the Lower House debates were set to begin.

The committee's recommendations, which were read out by deputy Samir Habashneh, approved with some government measures but disagreed with others and suggested alter-

natives. But when the matter was put to a vote only 23 deputies voted for. On his part, Mr. Kabariti brushed aside the committee's report and confirmed the gov-

ernment's irreversible decision to increase prices of bread and fodder and to push through to complete the economic reform program. He did not agree with a single point mentioned in the committee's report.

Observers believe Wednesday's vote was a reversal of fortune for the deputies who are now divided among themselves while the government emerged stronger. Deputies who voted for the committee's recommendations are now counted as among the opposition although some are considered as moderates and pro-government.

While the House was deliberating, the 23-opposition deputies who boycotted the session, were holding their own meeting at the Gallery. In their statement, released after their meeting, they opened fire on the government saying that its decision to increase bread and fodder prices will be followed by a wave of increases of prices of other products adding to the suffering of citizens.

The statement criticized the Prime Minister for the "irre-

Continued on page 2

Gaza s'inquiète de la nouvelle colonisation Voir page 12



● An overwhelmed official watches citizens who gathered since morning Wednesday to receive cash compensation from a Ministry of Supply distribution center in Jabal Al Hussein two days after the government lifted bread subsidies and hiked bread prices. The Lower House voted Wednesday against House committee recommendations that objected to government measures. (See related story) Photo by Fuad Jbour

King visit to Saudi Arabia sets scene for better relations with the Gulf

By Hamdan Al Hajj

Special to The Star
HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this week where he held talks with King Fahd was described by Jordanian circles as fruitful and successful. The visit not only removed remaining obstacles in Jordanian-Saudi relations but also created a clear atmosphere of confidence and co-operation between the two countries.

On his arrival at Alia International airport after concluding a visit to Al Medina Al Munawara and the Prophet Mohammed's Tomb, King Hussein stressed that his talks with the Saudi monarch have concentrated on bilateral relations and the need for joint Arab efforts towards mobilizing the peace process.

As to the bilateral relations, the King pointed out that talks discussed means of creating job opportunities for Jordanians in Saudi Arabia and boosting commercial and security co-ordination.

"Anything that poses a threat to Saudi Arabia will in turn be a threat to Jordan and vice-versa," the King assured the Saudi monarch. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia showed willingness to provide Jordan with oil.

Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti, who accompanied the King, described the visit as a positive step towards Arab co-



King Hussein and King Fahd during their meeting in Jeddah on Monday

operation, praising King Fahd's stance in relation to Jordan.

The visit came up with plans to enhance cooperation regarding political, economic, commercial and investment aspects. It also increased the possibility to provide the Saudi private sector with Jordanian employees and laborers. The view points of the two sides were almost identical on all subject matters being discussed.

King Fahd expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting stating that it was aimed to strengthen brotherly

relations and push forward the peace process in the Middle East.

It was the King's first meeting with King Fahd since August 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. The Gulf crisis had strained relations between Amman and Riyadh because of Jordan's position on the resolution of the crisis. Earlier this year, King Hussein visited Saudi Arabia, but failed to meet

with the Saudi monarch.

Speaker of the Upper House Ahmed Al Lawzi told *The Star* that the visit is by all means

fruitful and sets a strong base for further Arab co-operation and Jordanian-Saudi cooperation.

He confirmed that the meeting was marked by an open and warm atmosphere. The two leaders stressed the need to consider future prospects and have a united Arab stance in line with the new political developments in the region and the peace process in particular.

Al Lawzi disclosed that the visit reassured what has been agreed upon on the agenda of Cairo summit last June considering peace a strategic Arab option.

He added that Arabs have one option and one major concern, that is settling peace. "Therefore, their stability and security is also a main objective achieved through establishing a comprehensive peace in the Arab region."

The visit puts Jordan-Saudi relations on a new pedestal. Minister of Information Dr. Marwan Muasher said that the visit has ended all elements of strain in relations between the two countries and ushered in a new era of cooperation.

The Saudi leadership fully understands and appreciates the Jordanian position on the peace process, Dr. Muasher added.

Lebed announces plan to end conflict in Chechnya

By Richard Boudreaux and Vanora Bennett

LA Times-Washington Post News Service
JERUSALEM—Israel's new Likud-led government is dispatching 298 mobile homes to the West Bank in its first concrete move to expand Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

The decision, which drew despairing reactions from Palestinian leaders, confirmed the government on a course of renewed struggle for the West Bank between its 1.3 million Arabs and the 140,000 Jewish settlers whose leaders regard it as theirs by biblical patrimony.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai approved use of the government-owned trailers Monday, but the decision did not become widely known until Tuesday. A sparse written statement said the trailers would be set up "at educational and public institutions in Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria," the biblical names for the West Bank used by Jewish nationalists. It disclosed few details.

The government declined to provide any information about where the mobile homes would be placed, apart from stating that 100 would go to the

Israel sends mobile homes to West Bank to expand Jewish settlements

By Barton Gellman

LA Times-Washington Post News Service
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Samaria College in the settlement of Ariel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has emphasized school-building in public explanations of his settlement plans, repeatedly using the example of kindergartens, but officials did not try to deny Tuesday that the trailers are used primarily as living quarters.

Mobile homes in the West Bank have historically been used to stake out new lands for Jewish development, inside or outside the "planning boundaries" of existing settlements. Most have been followed in time by more permanent structures.

Cabinet officials sought to portray the new move as routine—and the least that could be expected from a prime minister who is a lifelong proponent of Jewish rights to live "anywhere in the land of Israel," by which he means the whole territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. But Netanyahu seldom mentioned settlements in his election campaign, save to promise he would not spend much money on them, because they remain unpopular with a most Israelis.

Netanyahu's principal campaign theme was his promise to make a "secure peace" with the Palestinians and surrounding Arab states.

Monday's decision on mobile homes follows a two-month drought in peace talks with the Palestinian Authority led by Yasser Arafat. Since his election on May 29, Netanyahu has declined to resume negotiations on a permanent agreement with the Palestinians and prevented any meeting of the joint committees that implement deals already signed by the two sides.

On Wednesday, Netanyahu permitted the resumption of limited talks, but he ruled out any discussion of the most prominent unmet Israeli obligation, withdrawal of its army from most of Hebron, the deadline for which passed in March. Israel will propose a new redeployment plan that allows it unlimited military access in areas that will be handed over to the PNA, sources said.

A grim-looking Arafat, asked about the mobile homes Tuesday, gave a one-sentence reaction in English to reporters outside his Gaza City headquarters: "This is a new breach for what had been agreed upon and what had been signed."

By Clay F. Richards
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

CELEBRATION, Fla.—No homes had been built, not even a model. Main street was a dusty path, the school and the hospital only open fields. Altogether, there were about 5,000 acres of scrubby, marshy, mostly flat Florida land.

Yet people came 3,000 strong to stand around and see if they would be among the "founders" of the new village, winning the right to buy houses starting at \$120,000 and going up to \$800,000.

Only one name was needed for 1,600 hopefuls to wish upon a star and put down a deposit to make their dream come true, Disney.

But this was no slick animated cartoon, no fantasy land with swirling teacups and cheery folks dressed up like Mickey Mouse and Tinker Bell.

This is Celebration, a \$2.5 billion new town for families where Walt would have felt right at home and where the heirs to his financial kingdom are building a family-oriented community of the future—so much in the future it looks like 1940s small-town America all over again. It's a kind of Yesterday Land with Volvos, Weber grills, Stair Masters and golden retrievers.

Come November, families will start moving into the first completed houses and walk down Market Street to pick up a

Disney's \$2.5 billion 'town' goes up in Florida

quart of milk and a loaf of bread, grab a quick meal, go to the movies and take a stroll by the lake. Just a few blocks over is a hospital and medical complex where the technology is space-age, and across the village green rises the break-the-mold public school with a few million dollars of bells and whistles thrown in.

"We looked at what made communities great in our past, added what we've learned from the best practices today, and combined that with a vision and hope for strong communities in the future," Michael Eisner, chairman and chief executive of the Walt Disney Co., said of his "very special community."

South of Orlando, Celebration is just down the road, a piece from Disney World, with its own exit off Interstate 4. Drive in on one of the narrow, winding, quiet streets (no gates in this community) and there is no sign of Mickey or his friends, no Disney store. The dream is to create a small American town for all types of people—from those who can afford the \$750-a-month apartment over the stores on Market Street, to those who have \$120,000 for a townhouse on Mulberry Street, or to the more affluent in the \$800,000 houses on Golfpark Drive out at the edge of town.

Celebration is a potpourri of America with a Southern accent. Overall, it looks like an old-style Midwestern small town, population 8,000. The housing architecture is Southern, from country cottage to French New Orleans classical. But it's not all Southern. The layout of the big homes across the street from the golf course is straight out of East Hampton, N.Y., where Robert A.M. Stern and Jaquelin T. Robertson, the collaborating chief architects and master planners of Celebration, have long had summer homes.

"You could call it Southern, coastal, classical style," Stern said. "Porches abound. We would like the houses to breathe. They are designed as if there were no air conditioning, which of course there is."

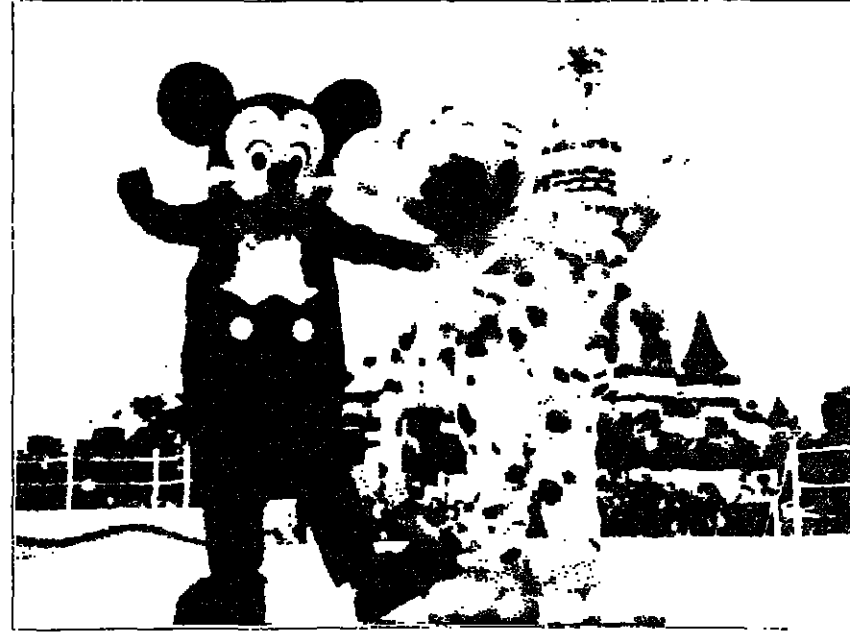
Houses come in 15 variations of six different styles: Classical, Victorian, Colonial Revival, Coastal, Mediterranean or French, and three sizes, cottage, village house and estate. Disney pretty much regulates what can be built anywhere, but there is considerable variety within a framework that does not include modern or bizarre.

Although there is plenty of Victorian lacework and antebellum wrought iron,

the overall mood is more folksy than formal. There are alleys for playing basketball and fountains for kids to run through. Stern leads a who's who of distinguished American architects called in to design Celebration. The town hall is by Philip Johnson, the post office by Michael Graves, the bank by Robert Venturi, the two-theater cinema by Cesar Pelli and the inn by Graham Gund. It's hard to think of any place else where so much contemporary yet traditional architecture is crammed into a few square blocks.

The path to Celebration has not been entirely smooth, but so far no obstacle has been encountered that couldn't be resolved by Disney's seemingly endless resources. When the original Disney World project was hatched 30 years ago, the company bought far more land than anyone thought was possibly needed (32,000 acres), and committed its millions only after the Florida Legislature gave the project virtual carte blanche development power without having to stop to consider zoning, the environment and the other impediments that cost time and money.

Disney has been mostly a kind and caring giant as it rumbled over the landscape, expanding over the years from the Magic Kingdom to EPCOT to MGM Stu-



dios and assorted other attractions. Occasionally, there has been increasing noise that the mouse was running roughshod over the landscape while ignoring the environment. To counter that and polish its image, Disney has done Celebration by the book, de-annexing the town's land from the original purchase and getting local government approval at each step along the way.

The school being built to educate Celebration's anticipated child population of 1,000 was one of the problems that arose.

Disney officials went to the Osceola County School Board and said they would donate land for the school and throw in several million dollars worth of educational extras. The extras were not just goodies like more computers and better athletic facilities, but an entire education program put together by internationally known experts from Auburn, Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities. All the school

Continued on page 3

World Report

Expected March
Oxnard, Calif., fight
live up to the hope
dubbed the new three
Hoyt Vargas, a well-
was beaten in the con-
by a Roman
Rebecca Twigg in
time Olympic med-
cycling quit the team
—or, as one Phila-
scribe wondered, "dis-
after going with
argument with
Coach Chris
Twigg wanted her to
coach at the Olympic
chael said no, so Twigg
her bike and went to
Colorado
Jackie Joyner-Kersey
though injury slowed a
chance of winning a
medal in the heptathlon.
Joyner-Kersey did not
win the bronze in the
jump.
The men's volleyball
U.S. Cycling, the men's
relay team. Given to
Janet Evans, Billy Payne

JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

Kabariti meets Bahraini defence envoy



Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti received last Tuesday, Sheikh Salman bin Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa, the secretary general of the Bahraini Ministry of Defense. During the meeting, the two reviewed bilateral relations and means of cooperation between the two countries. The Jordanian ambassador in Bahrain, Mr. Mohammad Al Mussalam, attended the meeting. The visit testifies to the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

Abbadi's court hearing postponed till September

The court hearing of Dr. Mohammad Uweidi Al Abbadi has been postponed till 9 September. The court case was suspended because the chief editor of *Shihab*, Al Abbadi, was suspended.



Mr. Jihad Al Momani, is out of the country. Both Dr. Abbadi and Mr. Al Momani are charged with attempts to undermine national unity. At the hearing that was due to start last Thursday, Dr. Abbadi said he was surprised to find that hundreds of the Abbadi clan were outside the Palace of Justice in Amman to show their support for him. After the hearing

was suspended, these people held a demonstration in support of the accused in Wadi Al Seer where he lives. But Abbadi says he has a lot of supporters. His so-called Jordanian National Movement includes such members as Dr. Ahmed Al Awaishah, Faris Al Fayed, Shaher Al Rawashdeh, Yusef and Ghannim Al Abbadi. According to *Al Hudath* and in a press statement outside his house, the movement states that in order to safeguard the Palestinian identity, the Palestinians living in Jordan should be given Palestinian passports and the naturalization process should be stopped.

Al Qal'a tunnel project to start in September

The Mayor of Amman, Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, says that tenders for Al Qusoor Tunnel will start on 3 September. The tunnel, which is 188 meters in

length will go through Al Qal'a Mountain all the way to Al Salt Street. The tunnel costs about JD 2 million and the execution of the project will start two weeks after the tender has been given. A lot of companies are in line for the tender, but these have been narrowed down by the Greater Amman Municipality. So far, four local companies and one foreign are standing for the tender after having submitted their proposals to the municipality. The Companies' applications are undergoing a rigorous procedure.

Oil, a reality in Jordan?

Jordan could become an oil state, Minister of Energy Dr. Hashem Al Dabass said encouraging news awaits us.



Dabass

He said indications show the possibility of an oil find in the Dead Sea. But this is not really news you might say, since the Israelis say that they have struck oil on their side of the Dead Sea, which means very probably that oil will be found on our side too. But we have to give Dr. Dabass the benefit of the doubt. The minister says

that drilling in that part of the world could take place very soon. But he argued that such a decision is awaiting the approval of the Lower House of Parliament who must ratify the joint agreement on oil production between the Natural Resources Authority and the American Trans-Global.

It's all go these days!

Bread, milk, fodder. It's all go in Jordan these days. Everything is going up. Where will it end, people could be heard muttering. But it seems that the most difficult obstacle that of bread price increases has been passed, or has it. Only time will tell, but the people, at least the poor, have started queuing for their bread supply coupons. But *Al Sabeel*, an Islamic weekly, is adamant. It says that a latest opinion poll found out that 98 percent of those polled reject the latest price hike on bread, one percent supported the decision, and one percent didn't express an opinion. Of course, Jordan must increase its basic commodities since it's following an IMF-structured program. But contrary to popular opinions, the international price of wheat is not going up anymore, in fact it is decreasing. Israelis are even being rewarded by their government which has

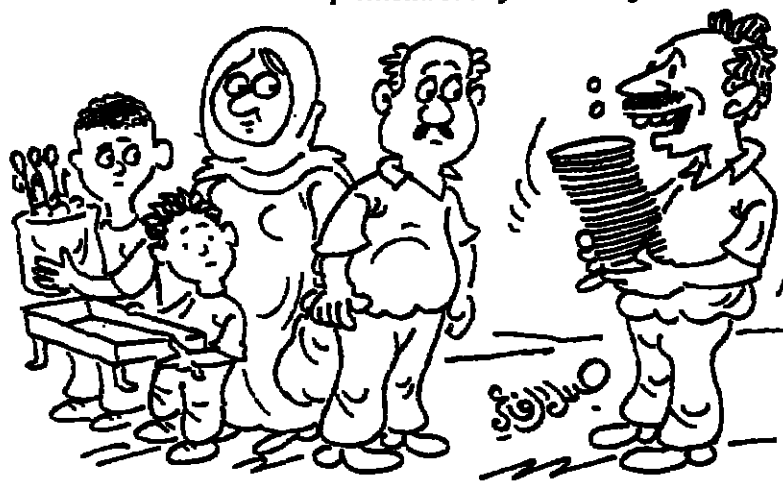
Jordan-Israeli security cooperation goes into high gear

Jordan and Israel have agreed to work closer especially over security matters. According to sources, there will be joint effort to stop infiltration on both sides of the borders of each country. Also, more supervision alongside the borders will now become the norm.

This was agreed upon earlier this week when high military Jordanian and Israeli officers met on the Damia Bridge which divides Jordan and the West Bank. The two sides will meet later this month to review the security situation.

The greater security measures are now taken because of the infiltration of Palestinians that resulted in the death of three Israeli soldiers. No one is quite sure whether these people crossed the Jordanian border but it is thought that they came from the Jericho area in the West Bank.

We're having a bread picnic...would you like to join us!!



Jalal Rifh/Ad Dufour

Ministry sets 223 free

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's Accession to the Throne that was celebrated by the country earlier this week, the Ministry of Interior has set free 223 people that were held in administrative detention.

These were Jordanians and people from Arab nationalities who were held for petty crimes. Those freed were held in many detention centers in the country.

This decision was directly related to the initiative of Minister of Interior Dr. Awad Khleifat.



decided to slash the price of bread by more than four percent as a result of these developments. The price of other basic foodstuffs, such as macaroni, were also cut. That should give Mr. Kabariti food for thought!

Uprooting corruption

True to its word, the government is moving thick and fast on corruption. According to the Minister of Information Dr. Marwan Muasher, 63 cases involving corruption and abuse have been sent to the courts as of the end of July. These include 15 cases relating to customs and smuggling, eight cases about mishandling of Ministry of Supplies regulations, seven cases of antiquities smuggling, seven cases of counterfeit, four cases of adulterated food, seven cases of

misappropriation of state land, four of arms and drug smuggling, and five related to government tenders. There were even cases involving forging of a lottery ticket and one about forging of a work permit.

US military aid to Jordan

American ambassador Mr. Wesley Egan said that total US aid to Jordan exceeded \$1.5 billion since 1990. US military aid to Jordan for 1995-96 was \$230 million. This was in the form of grants to enable this country to buy military hardware. A \$7 million grant went for the training of Jordanian personnel. He said that Jordan was allowed to withdraw a total of \$100 million worth of military equipments from the American army. The ambassador said that final procedures

have been completed for this country to receive the F-16's. Jordan is expected to obtain these fighters by the end of 1997. The planes, costing \$220 million, will be borne out by the American government, the ambassador said.

Jordanian prisoners to be released

Three Jordanian prisoners will be released from Israeli jails soon, according to sources at the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv. They added that there are 15 Jordanian prisoners who are facing life sentences in Israel after being charged with murder as they crossed the border from Jordan according to *Ad Dastour*. The oldest Jordanian prisoner has been held in an Israeli jail since 1987.

Lebed announces plan

Continued from page 1 since Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin's re-election 3 July. It came on the seventh day of a bloody rebel occupation of Grozny, Chechnya's nominally Russian-held capital.

The two men agreed on the need for a cease-fire and separation of forces, Lebed said, adding that he had left Maskhadov and the acting Russian commander in Chechnya to work out details.

The talks between Lebed and Maskhadov—two Soviet army veterans—in the Chechen village of Stariye Atagi, though described by Lebed's office as "very constructive," did not dampen the battle for nearby Grozny. Russian helicopters fired rockets and machine guns into some of the city's neighborhoods again Monday and the rebels staged an evening attack on the main Russian base a few miles to the east.

Even so, Lebed's surprise visit appeared to hold out hope for a breakthrough in the conflict, which has claimed more than 30,000 lives since Yeltsin ordered a December 1994 invasion to try to crush the tiny Muslim-led separatist republic.

Without yielding an inch on Moscow's claim of sovereignty, Lebed offered words of respect for the separatists—calling them "good fighters" and "fine soldiers"—and some fresh ideas for resolving their differences with and relationship to the Kremlin.

Outlining what he called a Yeltsin-approved plan, Lebed told reporters in Moscow that a cease-fire would lead to the convening of a congress of all Chechen social forces, including separatist leaders, that would supplant Grozny's Moscow-appointed puppet government and choose an assembly to rewrite the Chechen constitution. Lebed said Yeltsin also had drafted a decree granting him power to "direct and supervise" peace efforts in Chechnya, issue orders to Russian troops there and control all federal funds for the war effort and reconstruction.

Separatist leaders made no formal reply to Lebed's proposals. But Russia's Interfax news agency quoted one of them—unnamed—as saying Lebed had brought "a fundamentally new approach to regulating the conflict" that was worth considering. Lebed said Maskhadov was agreeable to the idea of limited autonomy for Chechnya within the Russian Federation. But Lebed acknowledged that Maskhadov does not speak for the entire rebel leadership on that question.

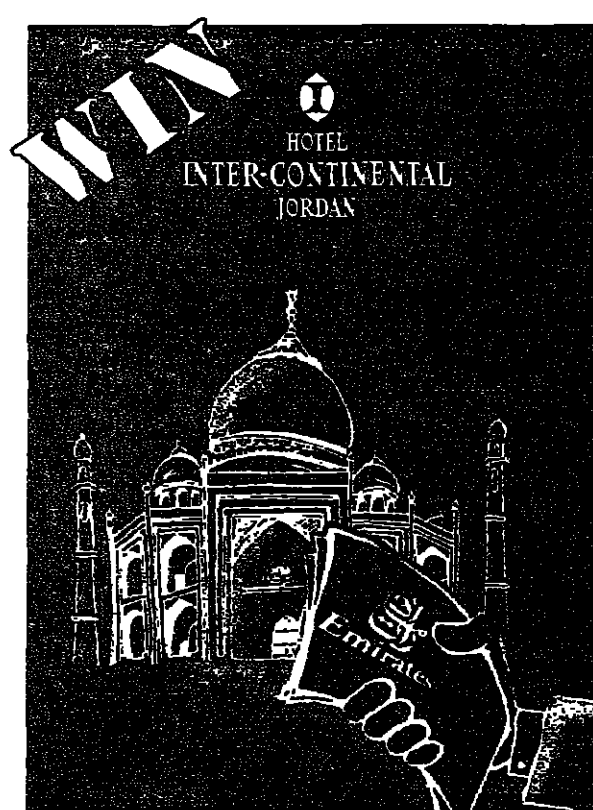
The Chechen conflict is so intractable that Yeltsin was able to halt it only for a few weeks to remove it as an obstacle to his reelection. But Lebed, a 46-year-old former paratrooper and Afghan war veteran who said Monday he was "fed up with war," appears to have brought new life to the peace process.

"Should hundreds of thousands of lives be sacrificed to achieve this Pyrrhic victory?" he asked. At another point, he said: "All wars, even if they are 100-year wars, end in negotiations. So why fight 100 years? Perhaps we should start with a negotiated settlement."

Investia commented in its Tuesday edition that, "The meeting between Lebed and Maskhadov may well become the beginning of a gradual change in the situation in Chechnya." But the newspaper noted that opposition to peace talks within both armies made it necessary to keep the talks secret—so secret, in fact, that Russian troops, unaware of who was coming, opened fire on Lebed's car at one checkpoint.

His visit had been awaited since his June 18 appointment as secretary of Yeltsin's Security Council. But his decision to meet with the rebels was a surprise. He had previously insisted on dealing only with Chechnya's puppet leader, Doku Zavgayev. ■

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House overrides its own recommendations to alter government bread policy

Continued from page 1

sponsible and inappropriate words" that were in his statement.

The opposition deputies reaffirmed their boycott of the House sessions in order "to safeguard the dignity of the House."

"This government which took decisions which touch the very nerve of people's lives and whose prime minister behaves as such is asked to resign because it has lost credibility and trust," the statement said.

Those deputies who supported the government at the beginning of the bread crises, find themselves now in a critical position. With the government ignoring their recommendations on the bread issue, they now feel that they have lost the

trust of the people who elected them.

Deputy Jamil Al Hishoush claimed that the government refused to listen to the committee's recommendations although the committee was set up with the approval of one third of the deputy ministers.

Head of the committee, Mr. Habashneh, and other members met with Mr. Kabariti twice last week in order to discuss the bread issue and reach a compromise. However, the debates reached a deadlock as the two parties refused to make concessions or change their views, Habashneh said.

Attention will now focus on the crisis created by the 23 deputies who are boycotting the House sessions until JTV airs their statements on the bread issue. Lower House Speaker

Sa'ad Hayel Sroor proposed that the opposition deputies agree on a written statement to be discussed in Wednesday's session on the condition that the whole deliberations be transmitted on national TV. But the deputies refused.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information Dr. Marwan Muasher said the government was satisfied with cash compensation measures implemented after the price hike decision.

The situation is normal in all districts and people find no difficulty in receiving the compensation, he told reporters Tuesday.

However, Islamists who oppose the hike are still rejecting the resolution calling on the government to cancel it. ■

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Fulbright grants awarded to Jordanians

AMMAN (Star)—The Jordanian American Commission for Educational Exchange (JACEE), also known as the Binational Fulbright Commission in Jordan has awarded 12 grants to Jordanian scholars, students and professionals for the 1996-97 academic year. The Fulbright Commission holds an annual competition for these prestigious awards to private and public universities, companies, ministries, research centres and NGOs in Jordan.

The 1996-97 Fulbright research were awarded to Dr. Saleh Suleiman, University of Jordan, linguistics, affiliated with Michigan State University, Dr. Fawaz Al Abed Al Haq, Yarmouk University, also in Linguistics affiliated with the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Khalaf Al Khreishah, Yarmouk University, comparative linguistics, affiliated with Indiana University, Dr. Zahra Mustafa, Jordan University for Science and Technology, linguistics, affiliated with Texas Tech University, Dr. Tayseer Subhi, Al al Beit University, Special Education for Gifted Children, affiliated with the University of Connecticut and Dr. Yahya Farhan, University of Jordan, Geography, affiliated with the University of Iowa.

The 1996-97 Fulbright Foreign student grants were to: Ms. Randa Sali of the Royal Centre for inter-faith studies, for a masters degree in international Affairs at Johns Hopkins University, Ms. Nihad Shabbar, Yarmouk University, for a PhD in Museology at George Washington University, Mr. Imad Mohammad, Yarmouk University for a Masters in accounting at Georgia State University and Mr. Zaki Aslan of the Arab Engineering Services and Consultation Company for a PhD in Preservation and Cultural Resources Management at Texas Tech University. ■

Disney's \$2.5 billion 'town' goes up in Florida

Continued from page 1

beard had to do was to put up the same money it would cost to build a school anywhere in the county, about \$15 million.

The board agreed, but when the bids came in the price tag for the building had jumped from \$15 million to \$22.8 million.

Part of the problem was the expensive design of the school, and Disney agreed to kick in another \$730,000 for fancy extras, including four decorative towers and a boardwalk. The company finally agreed to pay about half the difference and the board is looking to make cuts to close the gap.

The big question raised by Celebration is, can a company create not only a Utopia but a racially and economically diverse community that is state-of-the-art old-fashioned by spending more money, building a super school, the most modern of medical facilities—and then mop up any complications with yet more money?

Critics say just because everything sounds and looks perfect doesn't mean all groups will want to live there. The day will come, they say, when there will be the first fatal traffic accident or someone is murdered, and Celebration will be just another American town.

"Celebration is the most important development in American architecture in 20 years," said Hofstra University Professor Robert Sargent, who is writing a thesis on a planned community in Maryland. "Having said that, I like it and I don't like it."

"I wonder if you can create a community by design," he said. "It will be a beautiful small town, porches and narrow streets... a town center, shopping, nice houses and everything will be new. But small towns were not as great as people think. They don't have a sense of privacy...."

"Celebration could be very interesting," Sargent said, "or it could be a mishmash." ■

Lebed
announces
plan

Continued from p. 1
since Russian President Boris Yeltsin's election 3 July, the seventh day of bloody rebel war of Grozny, Chechnya's capital.

The two men agreed the need for a separation of powers, Lebed said, adding he had left Moscow and the acting commander in chief to work out details.

The talks between Lebed and Moscow's two Soviet army generals—in the Chechnya region of Stavropol—though described as constructive, did dampen the rebels' hopes.

Lebed's office said some of the rebels' demands, such as the return of the Chechnya region to the Russian Federation, were not realistic.

Even so, Lebed's visit was seen as a sign of hope for a settlement through the talks, which have lasted more than 20,000 hours.

Yeltsin ordered a 100 km buffer zone around the republic's borders to prevent the Chechnya rebels from attacking.

Without giving up on the idea of a federal republic, Lebed said, he would like to see the republic's borders closed.

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People & Politics



The case of the striking deputies

The walk-out by 24 deputies in protest over government bread policies and over national television's failure to air their speeches has created an embarrassing precedent in Jordanian political life. Both the government and the deputies were left eyeing each other in consternation. It looks as if both have cornered themselves into a situation where face-saving solutions are urgently needed.

On the one hand, the boycott, which effectively strips Lower House sessions of their legal quorum rendering the extraordinary session obsolete, is a blow to Lower House Speaker Sa'ad Hail Srour. He is supposed to bring the House to order and maintain authority at all times. But his initial attempts to bring the rogue deputies, mostly from the IAF, back to the fold has failed. On the other hand, the boycott underlines the tension that now characterizes the relations between the House and the government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti.

The two-week old crisis is further complicated by the fact that the House committee on the issue of bread and fodder subsidies, which is supposed to present its own recommendations on the government policies, may become divided since the government does not appear to be ready to make any compromises. The government issued its new policies on Monday, two days before the House was to vote on the committee's suggestions.

While the Kabariti government marches on unaffected by rising political objections to its controversial "adjustment" of bread subsidies, it is not giving away signs of internal rift over the issue. Mr. Kabariti now appears in control of his cabinet defying suggestions a couple of weeks ago that he was facing protests from members of his team over recent food policies.

Mr. Srour, on the other hand, would have liked this extraordinary session to have a happy ending. If the boycott persists it may well give His Majesty the reason to dissolve Parliament altogether and give the Kabariti government some breathing space. Surely, with Jordan focusing much on external policies at this stage, the last thing the government wants is political stunts of the kind now promoted by the opposition deputies. Meanwhile, some deputies even hinted that they may resign their post to further embarrass the government. That too would be dealt with more firmly, it is believed.

One thing now appears clear. The government will not cave in to pressure over its reform program. But the deputies may have reason to protest. For instance, national television should not take sides when covering Parliamentary issues. It did not in the past, why should it do that now? Many controversial issues that were debated in Parliament received "objective" TV coverage where many points of views, including those opposed to the government, had a fair coverage.

Mr. Srour had offered the 24 deputies the chance to air their grievances on Wednesday's session but they declined calling on him to use his right as specified in the House by-laws to prevent television coverage of the House deliberations in the future. Now, that is a little too harsh. A public reprimand of the national TV would have sufficed.

The fact is the deputies are playing a gamble. They're using the crisis to bring attention to them and to their position. That's to be understood and even accepted. But what can't be accepted is to risk derailing the House's session and the legislative process in its entirety over such an issue. Walking out is not the solution. They made their case when they walked out the first time. But the political game requires them to go back now and do what they were hired for: to legislate, debate, oppose and propose.

Up, up and away!

Jordanians woke up Tuesday morning and saw bread as if they were looking at it for the first time! The new hiked up tariffs became effective more than a month since the government announced that it was studying ways to lift bread subsidies and compensate deserving citizens with the difference in price. The same day the new price was slapped, the government began distributing cash subsidies to all Jordanians. Minister of Information, Dr. Marwan Muasher said Tuesday that on the first day 10,000 people had applied and received their cash rebate. He added that the government was satisfied with the cash dispensation procedures. Now, if only the government can do something about compensating citizens for the sudden hike in the cost of such essential items such as yoghurt, cheese, milk and falafel sandwiches, we'll all be one happy family again!



Muasher



His Majesty King Hussein praying in Medina during his visit to Saudi Arabia, Monday. (See story on front page)

Ibrahim Ghosheh of Hamas

'We are not an alternative to the Palestinian Authority'

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hamas is a major Palestinian Islamic political organization that has recently come under attack from Israel and the Palestine National Authority. The Star's Raed Al Abed talked to its spokesman, Ibrahim Ghosheh, about the aim of the movement in the peace era. Mr. Ghosheh, who is living in Amman, stressed that Hamas is not an alternative to the PNA and is prepared to engage in constructive dialogue with it.

The Israeli right is in power, Yasser Arafat is facing a potential crisis over his peace with Israel, Hamas is being suppressed by both. Where do we go from here?

A new era has started since Likud won power, because Likud is now forming a clear regional threat. Extreme dangers are now facing Arab and Muslim countries because of the radical decisions of Likud. [Benjamin] Netanyahu doesn't want to move on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks, but he is maneuvering to gain time to give him an opportunity to create new facts on the ground such as building settlements. In the long run, Hamas believes this will lead to an armed conflict in the region. We are also optimistic that such development will unite Arab and Muslims to confront such challenges.

To what extent do you think the conflict between Hamas and the PNA will continue?

The conflict between the [Palestine National] Authority and Hamas is a natural political one, a result of the differences in the programs of both sides. The Oslo program is the last straw.

Arafat's authority is facing tough conditions, particularly since the popular protest and demonstrations in Nablus and Tulkarm protesting human rights violations in PNA prisons.

What about the differences within Hamas ranks inside and outside Palestine?

In Gaza there are two trends, a pragmatic one represented by Mohammad Zahar, and the one—being the main—represented by Abdel Aziz Al Rantissi and Ibrahim Magad-

mech. The last two are in PNA's prisons. Recently members of the pragmatic trend travelled to the West Bank to convince the Hamas leadership to stop its military operations. Arafat's experience in cracking down on Palestinian factions in the last 25 years is being practiced on Hamas. Mr. Arafat and Al Tayeb Abdelrahman are responsible for the Hamas file in the PNA. They are trying to corrupt the position of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and force him to stand with the pragmatists. He refused the idea to stop resistance against occupation. Sheikh Yassin however, agreed to start a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority to avoid any inter-Palestinian conflict. In a letter to the Hamas leadership outside, Sheikh Yassin said that he would adhere to the Shura council decisions. This was violated by the pragmatic trend.

Are you ready to open a new chapter of dialogue between Hamas and the PNA?

Hamas is not against dialogue, whether it is internal [within Hamas] or with the Palestinian Authority, but it is illogical to create a dialogue with the Authority while there are 1000 Hamas prisoners in PNA jails, and it is illogical to have a dialogue with the Authority while it is violating human rights everyday.

But there is a wide ideological gap between you and the PNA. How are you going to find common ground? Some say Hamas is presenting itself as alternative to the PLO. Is this true?

Efforts at dialogue between Hamas and PLO or Fatah have been tried for the last seven years but failed. Hamas never presented itself as an alternative to the PLO, and we do not present ourselves as an alternative to the Palestine National



Ghosheh

Authority now. Hamas sees itself as an important strata within the Palestinian people. It has roots everywhere, inside and outside Palestine.

The political differences between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority make it impossible to find common bases. Concerning the ideological difference, Hamas is fighting to liberate Palestine and to establish an Islamic Palestinian state, while Fatah [the mainstream of the PLO] is a secular movement. This ideological difference, Hamas believes, should express itself inside a democratic parliament within a pluralist system. Unfortunately this did not happen. The previous Palestinian National Council and the recent Palestinian Legislative Council are a creation of one person, Arafat.

We have always called for a democratic parliament that represents all Palestinians, inside and outside. It should be elected freely and democratically, and we promise to respect the choice of the people.

How do you see the future of the Hamas-Israeli conflict? Hamas believes, strategically, there is no difference between the Palestinian land that was occupied in 1948 and the land occupied in 1967, the only difference is 20 years of time. Our interim program allows us to first liberate the occupied territories that was

occupied in 1967 including Jerusalem. However, this would be conditional to the fact that we don't recognize the Zionist entity.

We believe that the road to liberation is long, we have to first return the Palestinian decision to the Palestinian people, which is held by an elitist leadership.

We want the Palestinian people to stand on their feet and defend their land. We do recognize that the Palestinian cause may not be solved within one or two decades.

We believe that there is no Arab regime that can extract Jerusalem from the Zionists, whether Likud or Labor, and none can force the right of return of the Palestinians to their land, it is only the power of resistance that can do that. That's why Hamas is facing repression to kill its spirit of resistance.

Hamas is blamed for the economic deterioration in the West Bank and Gaza. This came about because of the 200-day Israeli closure of the territories after Hamas carried out its suicide attacks. How do you respond to that?

The greater crime is turning the Palestinian people into slaves in the Jewish economy. For the past three decades huge amounts of money were channeled for the building of Palestinian infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza—to make Palestinians depend on themselves. What happened to this money?

Secondly, closure is not a result of the martyrdom operations, sometimes Israel imposes closure for some Jewish fears, it is an old Jewish policy.

Are you going to continue the suicide operations against Israel?

It is a martyrdom operations not suicide operations. In a farwa, more than 25 Shariah scholars in Jordan said these

Point
of order

By Raed Al Abed

It is raining bullets, watch out!

Proudly! We are forced to add one more season to the four that are already imposed upon us—the season of shooting in the air. This season starts in early May till the end of October. It is the time of the Tawjibi results and wedding parties.

During these months, you have to stick to the following: Watch your head, use all protection measures like blocking your windows with cement! whilst accommodating yourself to the heat waves that the country is going through; don't even think of spending the night on your roof, it's a bad habit.

Of course, we can't ask you not to go to a friend's wedding but we suggest that you go with a helmet and an armored shirt, or to write your will. These suggestions are based on true to life experiences.

Shooting is an accepted social phenomenon that is practiced by everybody during a happy occasion. Such celebrations have been turned into armed shows, something we missed during the last three decades of the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

This summer is no different from the rest. People are turning their skies into a shooting practice, and it is purely for their own pleasure. Masochistic, may be not, but bullet showers, there are. So watch out. What is worrying is that innocent victims turn out to be the targets through non other than accidents. Frequently, it is the father or the son that happens to be firing widely in mid-air.

We continue to read and hear stories about this "armed struggle" against the air. A woman was cooking her family's supper in the kitchen, and suddenly gave her last breath because of stray bullet that cracked the glazed-window went straight into her chest.

A sniper can hardly do it, but recklessness always misses the target! An old man escaped the no-air atmosphere, and preferred to sleep on the roof, enjoying the cold breeze there. But with no excuse, a bullet, directly hit his stomach, he survived for few days, then passed away. Who did it? There were three wedding celebrations in the area, the three were exchanging gun-fire, showing off who is the best in shelling the sky; they can hardly believe that the sky is bigger than a target shoot. But the shoot has inevitably become against humans and not the sky through reckless and stray bullets.

"I thought it was a falling star (meteor), it punctured the front door wooden umbrella, just few centimeters in front of my feet, there were other kids too, everybody was in panic, it was like God's fury. One relative screamed, having caught a shrapnel between his fingers, it is an M16 bullet," one told The Star. "The source of the bullet was a mount area where celebrations were going on like crazy."

Frankly speaking, the Ministry of Interior has failed to stop or even lessen this non-stop war with air. We are sure that the concerned authorities read the reports on this case. Do you know that some times shooting in the air happens near a police station. Yes, the police arrested the groom in that case but he was later released.

So the phenomenon is becoming wider and wider, standing with arms folded solves nothing, every victim should be the responsibility of the concerned authorities.

are martyrdom operations, based on religious sources. No Shari'a scholars in the world said the opposite.

Martyrdom operations are implemented by the military wing of Hamas, Kata'ib Izzeddin Al Qassam. The political wing is totally separate from the military wing. I am the spokesman of the political wing. I can say that till now there is no change or amendment to the strategic program of Kata'ib Izzeddin Al Qassam or Hamas movement. This is despite the fact that there are 4000 Hamas supporters in Israeli jails and 1000 others in prisons of the PNA.

The PNA has criticized Jordan because of what it claims is the presence of Hamas on its territories.

The accusation of the PNA against Jordan particularly during Sharm Al Sheikh summit is lies. Even those young peo-

ple who were arrested in Jordan before and after the summit didn't face trial; they were all released. There was not a single evidence tying these people to Hamas military activists inside Palestine; these facts refute all of Arafat's claims.

Hamas is represented in Jordan since the beginning of the Intifada, all our activities here are of an informative nature. They concentrate on the Palestinian cause and the vision of the Palestinian Islamic movement concerning this cause.

Hamas does not interfere in the internal affairs of Jordan. It has no military activities here. Also we are not the only Palestinian faction in Jordan which expresses its position. There are other non-Palestinian opposition parties in Jordan.

We hope that the Jordanian government will not submit to pressures of the Palestine National Authority.

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LURIE'S WORLD



"I told you to be careful - you know how excitable these earthlings are!"

Our Say...

Light at the end of the tunnel

THE GOVERNMENT emerged at the top, Wednesday, after the Lower House voted against measures proposed by its own deputies to dampen the effects of ending wheat subsidies which also hiked the price of bread and fodder in Jordan.

While 23 deputies boycotted the session, only 23 of the 52 deputies attending voted for the recommendations proposed by a special parliamentary committee whose findings disagreed with the government's measures. The motion was not carried.

Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti has managed to overcome a suspicious public and a hostile Lower House to make more than 20 years of government subsidies of wheat and fodder effectively raising the price of bread by more than 200%. The government began immediately to hand out cash allowances to citizens to compensate them for the rise.

The government says the move was necessary as part of Jordan's commitment to economic reform and that while the move was to be made sooner or later, the government never intended to compromise people's basic right to bread. But Mr Kabariti was uncompromising with the legislators who were looking for a face-saving formula that would make them look good in front of the electorate. The Prime Minister denied them that luxury and now both will bear the result of the latest decision.

One has to applaud, even if one disagrees, Mr Kabariti's way of managing the crisis. He has put a lot on the table to pass this controversial decision including the popularity and credibility of his government. But it is too early to proclaim him or his government as winners.

The economic and social impacts of the new measures on Jordanians remain to be seen. One thing is certain though, the price hike will not be limited to bread but is already affecting other basic commodities such as dairy products, eggs and meat. The impact of these increases on Jordanians will not be easy or temporary. Jordanians should brace themselves for a rise in the cost of living affecting almost everything. It is here that the real challenge for the Kabariti government lies.

But with Mr Kabariti lifting subsidies, the word is an anathema for World Bank and IMF officials and experts, he should expect some confidence-building rewards from foreign financiers. We join him in that expectation.

We say this as we remind the Kabariti government that the Jordanian economy is still reeling from the effects of economic recession that has affected the industrial and financial sectors in particular. Unemployment and poverty are two socio-economic obstacles that the Kabariti government has yet to overcome. Social imbalances in the country would derail the economic adjustment program and with it the sacrifices of so many years. People need to see an improvement in their living standard—they need to be convinced that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. ■

The ideals of Ancient Greece were alive and well in Atlanta

By Sir Peter Ustinov

THE ATLANTA Olympics are over and patriotism can safely subside once more to the normal level of cows, both mad and holy. And there is room for programs on television other than endless shots from a variety of angles of hurdlers approaching the same hurdle or female athletes on the podium being kissed by elderly gentlemen of immense distinction.

The event was engineered as a huge public relations exercise for the US which was foreseeable once Atlanta won the right to organize for the US, the event. However, the human spirit, unadulterated by purely commercial considerations, was as manifest as ever in many little subtleties which emerged despite the hype and the glitz.

One proof of its undying presence was the respect and consideration of athletes for each other irrespective of the loyalties proclaimed on their outfits. In that sense at least, the ideals of Ancient Greece and of Baron de Coubertin were attained and kept alive.

The amused surprise and applause of the Bulgarian high jumper Kostadinova when a rival unexpectedly cleared a height hitherto reserved only for herself was typical of the elegance with which the competitors neutralized the chauvinism shown by commentators.

And often by the public. Admittedly the smile faded from Kostadinova's handsome features, and she immediately jumped a little bit higher than her rival in order to claim the Gold. The smile returned at that moment.

Of course, in the days of the first Olympiad, the effects of jingoism were avoided by the fact that they were all Greek, another fact to be taken into consideration is that, if the evidence of vases is to be heeded, they all ran naked.

If this habit persisted today, it would tend to dampen the wilder enthusiasm of the public, since even when clothed, it is sometimes difficult to identify the runners. One can also imagine some of the confusions among competitors inherent in a nude relay race.

There have been many changes, not all of them for the better. A robust American newscaster, doing what was expected of him, declared with evident satisfaction that America had swept the board as far as medals were concerned, mentioning figures which were correct on the morning of 5 August: FUSA 43 Gold, 32 Silver, 25 Bronze, making a 100 in all. There isn't a nation in God's green earth that can stand up to us.

He was right, of course. The late Soviet Union would, however, have gained 40 Gold, 37 Silver and 42 Bronze in the same period, making 119 in all.

More remarkable still, the European Union won a total of 229 medals, 75 of these Gold. France, Germany and Italy alone won between them an astonishing 48 Gold, 35 Silver and 54 Bronze—137 medals in all.

This proves nothing nor is it meant to, but it does correct certain impressions left by the rabid media coverage.

Speaking personally, I wonder if certain sports really have any place in these international jamborees. The peculiar form of handball one normally only sees on beaches in the summer was actually played on sand at Atlanta—presumably to provide the ambience of a holiday pastime.

Tennis does not really strike an entirely convincing note as an Olympic sport. If it carried with it an age limit, as soccer does, it would already serve to sharpen its image. But as it is, most of the leading lights are mysteriously injured at the time of the roll call. The finals, played before a wildly partisan crowd and with no fewer doubtful decisions than usual, hardly do credit to either the game or the Olympic ideal.

Olympic soccer, with its age limit of 23 creates intense interest as a fascinating early glimpse of future achievement. Nigeria's victory was immensely stimulating, a far cry from the stultifying series of penalty shootouts in the Euro 96 championships which were more indicative of a fear of losing than

vide the ambience of a holiday pastime.

Today, our appreciation of Nigeria's inspired young footballers is untarnished by the knowledge of a sinister government of military men in the background, as intractable and rough as all such administrations the world over. With the erosion of time, the footballers will do more good than the generals can do harm. And it is not wonderful to greet South Africa as victor in the marathon, a discipline for which their dramatic history seems to have prepared them.

After President Mandela's 26 years in prison, it is fit for them to make their mark in the marathon to celebrate their joyous re-entry into the brotherhood of man.

And again, how splendid that an athlete from Burundi should win a medal, and that the modifiability of this tragic nation because it possessed no Olympic committee should have been overridden by compassion and common sense. ■

The European...

The event was engineered as a huge public relations exercise for the US which was foreseeable once Atlanta won the right to organize for the US, the event. However, the human spirit, unadulterated by purely commercial considerations, was as manifest as ever in many little subtleties which emerged despite the hype and the glitz.

The magic historically associated with Brazil, ironically contributed to Brazil's defeat in the semifinals, when it showed up in pristine form in the shape of a sublime choreography with its roots in Africa.

The defeat of Argentina in the finals was perhaps not quite as extraordinary, but it was nevertheless a blast of fresh air into the fetid atmosphere of professional football. Yet another function of these Games is to banish the dead weight of politics from the consciousness of mankind for a brief moment, and to make that moment live

will to win.

PA leaders have been urged to "make haste slowly" (recalling Chaim Weizmann's use of the seemingly contradictory "hot frost"), but they don't seem to understand what that means.

Their security service lacks all restraint or inhibition. For example, from time to time it attempts to justify its use of torture in interrogations by citing the necessity of combating terrorism, as Israel and the US demand.

This PA lack of understanding of how much force to use in curbing terrorism is the backdrop to the violent demonstrations in Nablus and Tulkarm. It forms the background of the current ferment among Palestinians against Arafat's regime—a

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Middle East Beat

by Khairi Janbek

Turkish foreign policy

IT WAS not only the flurry of Arab diplomatic activity that has caught the headlines in the last few days, but also the diplomatic initiatives of Turkey's Erbakan government, and the future direction of its foreign policy.

Overnight, a senior Turkish minister was dispatched to Iraq to secure an oil import deal. Also, Mr Erbakan himself travelled to Iran to secure a \$20 billion gas deal. The American threats of sanctions did not seem to carry much weight, but then again, the US administration is facing many problems regarding sanctions against traders with Iran, who are their closest NATO allies.

The importance of the new Turkish foreign policy is not related to defying the US, but rather it is picking up the pieces where previous Turkish administrations have failed in their extrapolations towards the Islamic world. Of course, behind Iran there are the many Muslims in the Islamic Republics of the ex-USSR, with a great potential for developing trade relations and creating a viable strategic depth for Turkey. While looking towards Iraq, Turkey is given the advantage of an added bonus in the oil for food deal with the UN, and legitimizes a trading partner rather than a smuggling hoodlum.

Also, one should not forget that under the circumstances, Turkey is presenting itself as the sole main power in the region.

With its control of water resources, a vast army, and a foothold in Europe, we witness for the first time, a Turkish foreign policy that attempts to bridge the continental gap between Europe and Asia.

The policy of realignment with the Islamic world, and maintaining good relations within NATO, and preferential terms with the EU will create a Middle Eastern giant with real powers of mediation and control. Cleverly also, Israel has been brought into the new formula in the shape of a normalized trading partner without any historical preconception.

The way Turkey is proceeding indicates, up till now, the realization of an old dream, and a much coveted historical role in the reshaping of the Middle East. Entrenched in Islamic values and a moderate outlook, the European-oriented modern Turkish culture will be providing Turkey with an enormous position regarding inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues, and great advantages in the field of conflict resolutions.

Taking advantage of a unique geographical position, and synthesizing divergent values and cultures with a keen interest in promoting moderation, will enhance the position of the architects of modern Turkey in the face of the powers of pan-Turanic illusions.

Dealing with the issue of minorities, the Turkish government has shown greater leniency towards its Kurdish minority when compared with the actions of the previous Turkish administration. This has been distinctly shown in the compromise struck with hunger strikers in Turkish jails. Unfortunately though, the military operations still persist in the Kurdish population zones within Turkey, and at times across its borders.

Nevertheless, a glimmer of hope is emerging in the search for a peaceful resolution to the conflict with the latest call of Mr Erbakan, to hold a conference devoted to this issue with the neighboring states of Iran, Syria and Iraq.

This proposed conference will also deal with confidence building among the regional partners, and it is hoped that Turkey will play such a positive role on a wider scale in the region. ■



Ustinov

in memory. Like culture, sport is an influence for equity and balance in its own right. As such, it must be allowed its head and not be tampered with.

Today, our appreciation of Nigeria's inspired young footballers is untarnished by the knowledge of a sinister government of military men in the background, as intractable and rough as all such administrations the world over. With the erosion of time, the footballers will do more good than the generals can do harm. And it is not wonderful to greet South Africa as victor in the marathon, a discipline for which their dramatic history seems to have prepared them.

After President Mandela's 26 years in prison, it is fit for them to make their mark in the marathon to celebrate their joyous re-entry into the brotherhood of man.

And again, how splendid that an athlete from Burundi should win a medal, and that the modifiability of this tragic nation because it possessed no Olympic committee should have been overridden by compassion and common sense. ■

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● Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak meets Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Saturday. The meeting, which took place in Cairo, focused on devising a strategy to counter the Israeli intent to continue with the building of settlements on the West Bank.

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LURIE'S WORLD



"He just loves playing close to the net!"

Palestine Post

Orient House gets support

■ Orient House seems to be under fire these days. The Israeli government is determined to close down the house saying it has no business to exist in Jerusalem. However, others think differently, and not only the Palestinians, it might be added. The latest to join support is the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. John Hume. He said that Britain regards "Orient House as an important center for Palestinian activity in Jerusalem."

He says that his country's position is in line with the position adopted by the other members of the European Union (EU). He said that Palestinian institutions in east Jerusalem should have the right to exist and perform their activities. The minister added that the EU has one policy towards the Orient House.

Mr. Faisal Al Hussein, the head of Orient House, and the man in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio, said the closure of Orient House would be disastrous and lead to "loss of hope between the two sides" on the final status negotiation. Speaking to *Al Sharq Al Awsat*, he said that for Palestinians, Orient House is a symbol of Jerusalem and its closure would mean leaving Jerusalem out of the final status negotiations.

Gaza airport ready to receive aeroplanes

■ During his visit to Jordan, the PNA Minister of Transport, Ali Al Qawasmeh said that the Gaza International airport is ready at present to receive aeroplanes and provide its services for passengers.

Mr. Al Qawasmeh visited the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority, the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College, the Academy of Aviation and Royal Jordanian to be acquainted with the systems of operations at these corporations.

He held talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Nasir Al-Lawzi on means to remove obstacles facing the movement of passengers and cargo between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority areas. They also agreed to activate the accords signed between the two sides on land transit, airlines and observatory fields.

Morocco postpones visit of Israeli foreign minister

■ The Israeli Foreign Minister, David Levy, has submitted a request to make an official visit to Morocco, but officials in the country are rejecting such a request at the present time.

Levy is of Moroccan origin and wishes to visit this country, however, his demand was politely rejected, an Israeli official disclosed. Earlier, the Moroccan authorities refused to receive the envoy of the Foreign Minister, Issac Lioré who has recently visited Tunisia and Mauritania. He was carrying a message from Mr. Levy, the official added.

The source said that the Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu has also been unable to phone King Hassan of Morocco. The former consultant of the King Hassan said that the latest statements of Benjamin Netanyahu regarding Jerusalem has blocked the further development of Israeli-Moroccan relations.

Press Association in Gaza refuses to meet an Israeli delegation

■ A 50-member press Israeli delegation last week visited the Gaza Strip to meet some Palestinian officials including ministers and opposition members. The council of the Palestinian Press Association refused to meet the Israeli delegation. Mr. Zakariyah Al Tamas of the Palestinian Press Association said that this was in line with the Arab Federation of the Union of Journalists which opposes normalization with Israel. He added that Israeli journalists maintain a "silent stance" towards Israeli violations of Palestinian journalists' rights.

10324 new Palestinian passports issued

■ The number of Palestinian passports issued in the Bethlehem governorate since last November reached 10324 passports, an official at the Department of Passports and Nationality of the PNA said.

The official called on Palestinians who have not already got passports to submit their applications as soon as possible. These passports are used instead of obtaining exit permits from the West Bank for Palestinians willing to visit Jordan.

American medical aid for the Palestinian Ministry of Health

■ The American-European Joint Committee recently donated technical and medical assistance worth more than \$3 million to the Palestine National Authority. An American technical team presented the donations to hospitals in Jenin and Tulkarm. A committee from the European Union will also provide the PNA's Ministry of Health a donation of up to \$300,000; this includes two ambulance cars.

American Consul warns against Israeli closures

■ The American Consul in Jerusalem Mr. Edward Epington warned that continued economic deterioration on the West Bank and Gaza as a result of the Israeli closures of the territories could be a recipe for disaster.

Israel can secure its safety without hurting the Palestinian economy, Mr. Epington said adding that the blockade will lead to more violence and undermine the whole peace process.

Mr. Edward called on the Israeli government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu to take positive steps to improve the Palestinian economy through cooperation with the Palestine National Authority.



Al Hussein



Levy

First political crisis in Israel begins as Levy-Netanyahu's rift widens

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Foreign Minister David Levy, whose four-year feud with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu receded briefly around election day, is doing again what he does better than any rival in Israeli political life: nursing his wounded dignity and threatening to resign.

The second-ranking figure in Netanyahu's government, Levy boycotted the Cabinet meeting last Friday and maintained an injured silence from his small-town power base of Beit Shean. Through aides in his Geshet Party, which split from Netanyahu's Likud but allied with it for last May's election, he made known that he will quit the post if Netanyahu does not accord him a larger role.

There is no policy or ideological dispute beneath this latest spat, and it cannot threaten Netanyahu's grip on power without stupendous miscalculations by both men. But the drama over Levy's prerogatives and pride has been more than enough to occupy the country's political junkies for several days.

Like many a foreign minister here before him, Levy feels

pushed to the margins of his ostensible bailiwick. Neither he nor any senior aide accompanied Netanyahu on his visits to Washington and Amman, and Levy has not even been notified of the secret diplomacy of Dore Gold, a close Netanyahu aide, to several Arab states. When Netanyahu did not bother telling him about secret overtures to Levy's own native Morocco, Levy stopped showing up for work and began making rumblings that he would quit.

Much the same tactic has worked often enough for Levy that it could fairly be called the basis of his political career. Resignation threats in recent years landed him the foreign minister's job under former Premier Yitzhak Shamir, forced Shamir and then Netanyahu to tear up their lists of parliamentary candidates to make room for

Levy's political machine, and landed him second billing under Netanyahu over figures far more popular in the Likud party and the public at large.

One reason for Levy's success is that his well-developed sense of grievance resonates with others among Israel's large cohort of Sephardic Jews, whose families come from north Africa and the Middle East and who resent the long-standing dominance of European-stock Jews like Netan-

yahu in Israeli society. The Sephardi vote is essential to the Likud's electoral success.

But Levy has often had a stronger hand to play than he seems to have now. Netanyahu managed to bring him on board for the last three months of the spring election campaign, and without Levy he might well have lost. But as Israel's first directly elected premier, Netanyahu now depends less on coalition partners than his predecessors

did to remain in power.

Even if Levy does resign and all six Geshet members of parliament leave the governing coalition—a scenario still that still looks remote—Netanyahu would still have a bare majority. He could only lose that if additional Levy sympathizers such as Ariel Sharon, who nurses his own grievances against Netanyahu, were willing to bring the government down and force new national elections.

What makes the story irresistible to Israelis, nevertheless, is the obvious personal loathing between Levy, 58, and Netanyahu, 46, who was the silver-haired foreign minister's deputy in the last Likud government and went on to defeat him as party leader. Their bitter struggle for power, which included false charges by Netanyahu that Levy was blackmailing him, left Levy unwilling to speak to Netanyahu—or even utter his name—for some three years. He used to refer to him in public insults as "that man."

Among Levy's demands at present is that he control the choice of chief negotiator with the Palestinians, a job that remains unfilled. But this is the crux of the problems. The question centers on who will head the steering committee

which will oversee the talks with the Palestinians and who will determine the committee's policy. Netanyahu would not be drawn.

He gave a tart reply in a televised interview last Tuesday night.

"I was elected in personal elections in order to promote a certain policy, and at the heart of the policy is the Palestinian issue," he said. "I mean to control it in partnership with the foreign minister, but I mean to lead. There is only one prime minister, only one, in Israel."

But this infuriated Levy who determines to be an active foreign minister and not just in name only. Netanyahu's attitude is creating much discomfort in Levy's Geshet Party. "The prime minister appears to be building himself his own administration beside that of the cabinet ministries, including the Foreign Ministry," said Knesset member Yehuda Lankari.

Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet seems to be beset with trouble. Last week the Justice Minister, Yacov Neeman, was forced to resign from government. This followed allegation that he obstructed justice in a legal case against the leader of Shas, Mr. Arieh Deri. ■



Turkey-Iran gas deal could complicate relations with US, experts argue

By Thomas W. Lippman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

WASHINGTON—Energy-short Turkey signed a \$23 billion long-term agreement Monday to buy natural gas from neighboring Iran, a deal that could subject Turkey to US economic sanctions and drive a political wedge between the United States and a key NATO ally.

Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, a conservative Muslim who runs the first religiously oriented government in modern Turkish history, signed the agreement in Tehran on his first official visit to a foreign country.

By doing so, analysts here said, Erbakan put his campaign promises, his religious beliefs and his desire to stake out an independent course for Turkey ahead of his desire to maintain friendly relations with Washington. A last-minute telephone call from Acting Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff to the Turkish foreign ministry failed to head off the deal, State Department officials said.

Economic conditions in Iran and Turkey make it questionable whether the agreement will actually result in any gas deliveries, analysts said, but the political fallout here and in Turkey could be extensive nevertheless. Turkey—mostly Muslim but constitutionally secular, Asian and European, a member of NATO and a Middle East power—appears to be going through an identity crisis, in which Erbakan's minority government is nudging the country eastward.

The United States has an enormous stake in the outcome of Turkey's cultural dynamic. Turkey is not only a member of NATO but a strategic partner of Israel, a crucial economic and political counterweight to Russian ambitions in central Asia and a cornerstone of US policy in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.

The gas agreement drew immediate and predictable criticism from the Clinton administration, which regards Iran as the world's number one promoter of terrorism and has invested huge amounts of political capital in trying to

persuade other countries not to do business with the Islamic republic.

"Signing this deal is not the kind of signal that we in the West should be sending to what is, in effect, a rogue government that opposes us on many important fronts and, most importantly, appears to harbor aggressive intentions toward a number of nations in the West, particularly through sponsorship of terrorism," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said.

But he added, "we certainly don't expect that this will cause a major rift in our relationship. We hope it won't." A senior administration official said Washington recognizes that Turkey has "some very important energy needs and not a lot of good options," considerations that must be weighed against the administration's desire to keep cash out of Iranian hands. He pointed out that Japan is a major purchaser of Iranian oil, without detriment to Japan-US relations.

Davies said it is too early to tell whether the agreement will trigger economic sanctions

required by a new law President Clinton signed last week. That measure mandates US sanctions against any foreign corporation, whether private or state-owned, that invests \$40 million or more a year in the petroleum infrastructure of Iran or Libya.

Regulations implementing the law have not yet been promulgated. Until the regulations have been published and the details of the gas contract studied, Davies said, it will not be clear whether sanctions are called for.

Turkish officials have argued that the gas agreement should not trigger sanctions because it was initiated and initiated by the government of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller before the new US law was signed, and because they plan to build a pipeline only as far as the Iranian border. Iran will build the pipeline on its side, according to the Turks, and thus Turkey is not investing in Iran's energy infrastructure.

According to Alan Makovsky, an analyst of Turkish affairs at the Washington Institute on Near East Policy,



"this wasn't done to defy Washington." He said Turkey is "energy-desperate" and has been looking for years for new sources of natural gas. Most of Turkey's natural gas comes from Russia, a dependence that makes Turkey uncomfortable because its historic rivalry with Moscow.

The 22-year agreement will allow Turkey to buy from Iran four billion cubic meters of gas

annually starting from 1998.

"The sanctions ban investments in Iran. We are not going to invest in Iran. This is only a trade agreement," Abdullah Al Gul, the Turkish government spokesman later said.

On his visit to Iran last Sunday, Mr. Erbakan said that his visit is not a challenge to the US which he called "our friend and ally." ■

Sifting for truth in Bosnian graves

In minutes, Haglund dispels any illusion about the skeletons uncovered from soft clay no higher than his waist. Some have jagged holes in their skulls. Other show wrist bones bound by plastic-covered wire.

By Christine Spolar
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NOVA KASABA, Bosnia—Some days Bill Haglund can breathe through the sour bodies, squint past the clumps of matted hair and wasted bone, and think of something beautiful. Chagall. The soft edges of the dead, their odd angles of repose, the faceless figures seem something the painter

Marc Chagall, in a morose moment, might have dreamed.

Then the gray-bearded medical investigator turns from the dirt to the broiling sun and focuses on a clutch of reporters, queasily waiting on grave's edge for word on the missing men of Srebrenica.

In minutes, Haglund dispels any illusion about the skeletons uncovered from soft clay no higher than his waist. Some have jagged holes in their skulls. Other show wrist bones bound by plastic-covered wire. Haglund, a Seattle native who wears a tie out of respect for his work and a felt fedora out of sartorial whimsy, deciphers the mound of lost lives:

"We have a gentleman right here, in a sitting position, sort of on top of other people. Here," he said, spreading his arms, "You can see gentleman No. 2 is lying on his back. His head is in a downward position. His hands are beside him, like this," he gestured again, "and bound. Gentleman No. 3 is also lying on his back and his hands are behind his back."

What about that crushed skull on No. 7? "I don't know if it's crushed," he said. "It's consistent with a gaping defect to the right-hand side. We'll determine later if there are bullet fragments, bullet peripheries or bullet wounds in his skin."

William Haglund, until recently chief investigator in the King County, Washington, medical examiner's office, doesn't waste time jumping to conclusions. He and about 20 other volunteers and workers he directs, from the international group called Physicians for Human Rights, have

little more than 90 days before the first snowfall to dig up dispassionate answers from these shallow graves.

The group's work in Guatemala, El Salvador, Iraq's Kurdish-populated north and most recently Rwanda has documented human rights abuses through medical and forensic tests.

Srebrenica, a UN-protected "safe area" in eastern Bosnia, fell to Bosnian Serb attackers a year ago. About 8,000 civilian Muslim men are listed as missing; as many as 5,000 are believed to have been shot as they attempted to flee. Several mass graves are being exhumed.

The victims' stories will become part of the evidence before the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The trained archaeologists, anthropologists, pathologists and radiologists who came to sleep in army bunks and work 12-hour days under armed guard, Haglund said, are hoping cool, calm science will ease the emotions of those left behind.

"The real reason you're dealing with the dead is because of the living," said Haglund, 53, who has two grown children. "You do it because you're concerned with other people and concerned about resolving the questions that leave their lives in limbo."

"They're missing someone and they can't continue on with their lives. They have this vacuum. And they fill up the vacuum with hope. That the person might still be alive—in forced labor camps, incarcerated

at some place, working in mines. With my information, I can put an end to some of the questions. I try not to be a spoiler of dreams," he said quietly. "Maybe just a spoiler of nightmares."

The fieldwork begins with a T-shaped steel rod, one inch in diameter. A crime scene investigator from the US Air Force sticks it in the ground at intervals, pulls it up and sniffs. Bloodstains are long gone. Vegetation has grown over. Investigators poke by poke, search for the peculiar odor of human decay.

Once a site is confirmed, a laborer atop a giant backhoe starts delicately carving, inch by inch, under the anthropologists' watchful guidance. Precision can mean the difference between evidence and ruin.

This excavation, a few yards from a main road to Sarajevo, began with a skull found six inches beneath the grass.

Workers proceed slowly. First with shovels, then with garden trowels and then, when bones and sinews are clear, with paintbrushes. The fragile remains are numbered, photographed, separated, wrapped—body by body—in white plastic bags and taken to a newly established laboratory in Tuzla.

"I have to be a scientist and approach this objectively but, emotionally, I find the truth very important," said David DelPino, an anthropologist from Chile. "You use one part heart, and the whole part brain."

Becky Saunders, a curator of anthropology at Louisiana

State University's Museum of Natural Sciences, said she was trying to make sense of a conflict that flourished from indifference. "People did things like this because they thought they could get away with it," she said. "They thought no one would care."

The team, contracted by the United Nations, has investigated suspected graves on all sides of the 3 1/2-year Bosnian war. But the scale of evidence in Serb-controlled territory has dominated their efforts. Haglund is quick to shake off suggestions the searches have been biased—a charge Bosnian Serb officials renewed last week as they threatened to close off challenged territory.

Because of the fierce emotions still raging, "all excavations must be done under NATO armed guard. All search areas also must be cleared of mines."

Before the sun sets in Bosnia this day, Haglund will describe the outlines of seven men and dig on to find six more in a field dotted with purple wildflowers. This field first came to light last fall, in US government satellite photos, as a suspicious plot of freshly dug earth.

Haglund will not guess how they died. He will not suggest who put them in the ground. Haglund will only point out that he sees what you see.

All had their hands tied. All were dressed in civilian clothes, with jeans bleached gray-white after months of burial. All were thrown. Haglund points out wearily, "ignobly in a hole." ■



Civic groups blossom in Cuba after passage of law

By Juanita Darling
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

GUANTANAMO, CUBA—Through the clamor of rumba music, Jamaican English drifts from the open door of a neatly painted clapboard house.

A sign identifies the building as The West Indian Welfare Centre, an organization that has existed for most of this century—ever since Jamaicans arrived to cut sugar cane. Founded to help Jamaicans in financial trouble, it became a social center and has now taken on a new vibrancy.

Old men still form a circle of rocking chairs in the afternoon to compare their memories, but often they are joined by young historians, who jot their recollections in notebooks. The group's youth division two years ago started an English-language school; it graduated 19 students, its first class, this spring.

Other towns with a West Indian tradition have asked the center to help them form their own local organizations, said Robert Plaxton, the group's president. "Better conditions have been created to allow traditions to be carried out," he said.

The old association and its offshoots are part of a growing Cuban civic society that has blossomed in the four years since the government passed a law recognizing such groups. Ethnic, religious, environmental and special interest groups from dog-owners' organizations to dance societies have sprung up.

Critics claim the law is aimed at controlling civic



groups because it requires them to register with the government. Indeed, earlier this year, dozens of leaders whose organizations are concerned with human rights or political reform were arrested.

Government officials did not respond to requests for interviews, making the number of registered organizations unavailable. However, the groups are thought to total about 2,000, including long-standing offshoots of the Communist Party.

"Civic organizations are far more dynamic in Cuba than most people realize," said Joel Suarez, coordinator of the Mar-

tin Luther King Center in Havana. The center was founded as an ecumenical body in 1987 and has expanded to include housing, educational programs, work with the elderly and other activities that the government once monopolized.

"The government cannot take on everything," said Martha Garrilaso, vice president of Habitat-Cuba, a group that builds and remodels low-cost housing for minimal fees.

Cubans also noticed that while governments were cutting back on foreign aid, more money was becoming available for civil groups through nongovernmental organizations.

Civic organizations have not just accepted the financial burden of what used to be government responsibilities. They also are meeting their goals in different, generally more democratic ways.

When Garrilaso worked for the government housing authority, she said, "We never spoke with the people who were going to live in the housing."

In contrast, Habitat has sociologists on staff to help architects and engineers consult with the people whose houses they are building or remodeling. Through Habitat's nationwide Community Architect program, plans are modified according to

the needs of each family.

The group receives no Cuban government support. Administrative costs are covered by dues of 20 pesos (less the \$1) a month paid by professionals in the Community Architect program. Money donated by foreign governments and organizations buys everything from pencils to brick-making material.

Similarly, Cubasolar, a group founded to promote alternative energy, has developed contacts with foreign civic groups to study and propose solutions to energy problems. Cubasolar arranged donations of transmission wire from German groups, and they were used to complete stalled rural electrification projects.

However, those projects generally are subject to approval by the government in Havana. "The relationship between the government and civic organizations here is quite different from the United States, Europe or even the rest of Latin America," said Suarez. "Why should I pay an engineer when I can use a government engineer? That does not undercut my autonomy."

The government's willingness to acknowledge that civic organizations have a place in Cuba is a significant change, he said.

"During the 1960s and 1970s, diversity was discouraged for fear it would damage unity," Suarez added.

Now, "a new space for other groups has been created."

Setting a 'President' Study reveals distinct traits of neuroticism

By Shari Roan
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

TORONTO—Ronald Reagan was the least neurotic. Thomas Jefferson was the most intelligent. Warren G. Harding was the least open to experience and the least conscientious. And Teddy Roosevelt led the pack in extroversion.

These findings are drawn from an extensive, new database on US presidential character and personality that its creators—psychologists who specialize in job performance—hope will become a tool to assist Americans in selecting their leaders. The research, presented last Friday at the annual American Psychological Association meeting in Toronto, examines the personalities of all 41 presidents in greater depth, detail and objectivity than ever before.

The data compares presidents on numerous traits such as intelligence, conscientiousness and neuroticism and sheds light on what kind of a president—great or not so great—a candidate might make, said Baylor College industrial psychologist Thomas Faschingbauer.

The database is more detailed and reliable than previous attempts to categorize presidents by their character. To obtain the data on each president, more than 100 experts—typically presidential biographers or historians—rated presidents using several well-known personality instruments. An extensive attempt was made by researchers to find the most objective biographical accounts.

The ratings completed a battery of standardized tests designed to evaluate presidents: many of the tests included 100 or more questions. The experts looked at personality traits during the person's entire life—not just the period in which they served as the nation's leader. Thus, the database can be used to look at presidential candidates and how they measure up to past presidents, said the researchers, who also looked at GOP candidate Bob Dole.

Personality, along with experience, is considered very important to any career success, said researcher Deniz S. Ones, an industrial psychologist at the University of Minnesota.

"Personality matters. It represents a good chunk of job performance," says Ones. Differences in personality can often be distinguished by five significant characteristics: neuroticism, extroversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness, the psychologists said.

Using this measure, Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt were rated No. 1 and 2 in extroversion, respectively, with Bill Clinton third.

Richard Nixon was the most neurotic; Clinton ranked 23rd.

Jefferson and Teddy Roosevelt were No. 1 and 2 in intelligence while Clinton ranked



ninth and Dole 27th.

In openness to experience, Jefferson scored highest, with Clinton 10th and Dole 30th.

On agreeableness, James Madison and Abraham Lincoln were ranked at the top with Clinton 20th and Dole 33rd.

George Washington was found to be the most conscientious with Dole 25th and Clinton 40th.

But possessing admirable personality traits doesn't al-

scored low on straightforwardness and compliance. Ones said, while traits such as trust and altruism didn't seem to matter.

The authors of the database hope to publish a book on their research in time for the presidential race in 2000.

Other findings gleaned from the database include:

■ Presidents generally are more extroverted and assertive than typical Americans. But they aren't as good at taking action and aren't as straightforward.

■ Clinton, Lyndon Johnson and Andrew Jackson were found to be similar. They are described as "good ol' boys" who get low marks for character and integrity but rank high in the need for excitement and in their creative leadership style.

■ Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson are seen as introverted.

■ Dwight Eisenhower and Harry Truman are extroverts while Ulysses S. Grant, William Howard Taft and William McKinley are viewed as passive.

■ Nixon and John Adams are described as the "dour scholars."

■ Among the presidents where good biographical information is available, Washington was rated tops in character and among the most recent presidents Jimmy Carter was fifth.



ways mean one will be a great president. Ones noted. By using previously published rankings of presidents in terms of their greatness, the researchers were able to look for common personality traits and ones that didn't seem to matter.

Successful US presidents tend to score high on IQ, assertiveness and competency. Striving to achieve was found to be the most important attribute. The great presidents

extroverts while Ulysses S. Grant, William Howard Taft and William McKinley are viewed as passive.

■ Nixon and John Adams are described as the "dour scholars."

■ Among the presidents where good biographical information is available, Washington was rated tops in character and among the most recent presidents Jimmy Carter was fifth.

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Language is crucial in a nation's character

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star US correspondent

"HERE HE is now. He done come in late again."

The above was not said by an uneducated, rural ruffian in the course of everyday conversation. Rather, it was stated deliberately by a radio talk show host who appears to have a vast amount of knowledge and who most probably has a good academic background. It is his attempt to be down-to-earth, perhaps even humble, and to be accepted as one of the "good ole boys."

In this case, the individual in question anchors a talk show just a few miles west of my home. Although his (and his partner's plus an occasional visitor's and most of the callers') views usually differ from mine, the show is a good sounding post for opposing stands and useful insight. In other words, it is quite enjoyable.

As noted this is in my area of the country but most definitely a similar show, using similar language, could be found in nearly every—if not all—state (s) in the Union. And this is the problem. No, not the content; it is good for persons to be exposed to varying opinions. But the frequently used poor grammar achieves far more than the speaker's intent. It makes a very subtle imprint on anyone listening.

As in many spheres (equality of the sexes is the primary one that comes to mind) the subtleties permeate minds unconsciously, regardless of the merit of the subject at hand. When listeners who may or may not have formal education hear such an assault on our lan-

guage, it will sooner or later slip out in some casual way by the former and merely reinforce an accepted standard in the latter.

This is particularly disturbing when we consider our youth. And yes, many do listen to such stations. Presently in the United States, we are told of the very poor ranking our school-age youngsters have in far too many areas. Frequently the results of random tests are published and we find that many have never heard of various states, large cities, renowned political leaders, and certainly know little-to-nothing of international affairs. Math scores are atrocious, yet much has been lost in liberal arts education because of the focus on math and science in the last two decades. Obviously we are not teaching our youngsters even the basics. There are many reasons for this but here we shall

stick to the one. We must focus on the language of our role models, just as we focus on their accomplishments and behavior. Small children, teenagers, we all tend

considered quite mild in the 1990s. It would be superfluous to enter a dissertation on the formerly "forbidden" crude words that have become accepted more and more by society. (Another phenomenon to address in the future.)

Presently attention is on just plain old correct grammar. Are we becoming a nation of illiterates at least as how we bungle our own language? What does this say about us? Certainly each of us knows that a person is judged more by his character, honor, integrity. But language reflects much about a person's attitude toward being the best he/she can be. Perhaps it is just a veneer that covers the inner soul, but it is an important veneer. It may be an oxymoron, but language veneer is more than skin deep.

Role models play an exceedingly important part in the education of our population. And education is the single most valuable entity a society can offer. For ignorance breeds fear; fear breeds hate. Why was there such rabid hate—and still

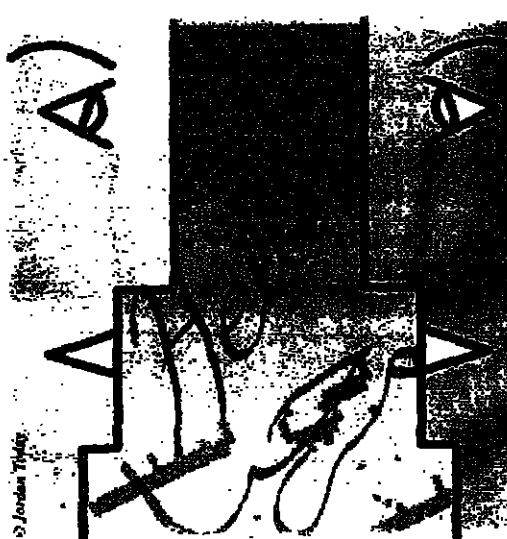
far too much—regarding integration of the races? Much could be traced to the fear of the unknown. (Isn't it interesting that the various sports arenas probably accomplished more in easing integration than did our schools per se?)

There are those throughout the country who argue that one without children or whose children are grown should be exempt from school taxes. Don't these people realize that the more uneducated people we have in the streets, the more poverty and crime we shall experience?

Education is a gift and a protection. It, combined with strong moral fiber (which often is nourished through education), is the primary foundation of a society. The subtleties of our actions and our language play a fundamental role in this education.

The otherwise articulate and learned radio talk show host has an obligation—and certainly an excellent podium from which to do so—to use proper grammar. Stopping is not what makes him acceptable.

And then there are those role models who simply do not know proper language—grammar or otherwise. But that is another column. ■



In music and message, the beat goes on for EBTG

By J.D. Considine
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

WHEN THE title tune from Everything But the Girl's new album, "Walking Wounded," was about to make its British radio debut, Ben Watt—the group's chief composer and multi-instrumentalist—was a bit concerned about how it would go over.

But he wasn't fretting what the fans would think. He was concerned about his 70-year-old mum.

"I said, 'Look, it's going to be on tonight if you want to hear it. I don't know what you're going to make of it, but tune in,'" Watt recalls.

"She listened to it, and called me up when it was over. She said to me that she hadn't really understood what was going on rhythmically, but she had felt that it was incredibly emotionally gripping. I thought that was brilliant coming from her. She didn't need the semantics to describe it, and I thought that was great."

Still, it's easy to understand why Watt would worry. Ever

since he and Tracey Thorn first formed the group in 1982, Everything But the Girl, or EBTG, was celebrated for the softness and sophistication of its sound. Where other English alterna-rockers favored loud guitars and simple harmonies, EBTG stressed acoustic instruments and jazz chords, going for a sound that was somewhere between modern folk and '60s samba.

By contrast, "Walking Wounded" draws its inspiration from the synth-and-drum machine sound of contemporary club styles like jungle and drum-and-bass. It's not a dance record per se, although a pumped-up remix of "Wrong" had considerable success in that arena earlier this year, but neither is it a typical EBTG album. And that's exactly what Watt wanted.

"For me, we are at our best when there is something to contrast those natural, smooth sounds that come out of us normally," he says.

"That fluid, languid thing: the sound of Tracey's voice, the way that I hear melodies. You have to give it a contrasting extreme to give it

attention, and I think on our worst records, those kinds of extremes have been lacking. It meant our records have often become too mellow and there's no kind of grip."

There's definitely a sense of contrast to the songs on "Walking Wounded," though. When heard in these arrangements, Thorn's bruised plum of a voice seems all the more affecting against the coolly percolating synths and buzzing, metallic break beats.

As Watt says, "she almost sounds more human because of the kind of landscapes she's set against."

"I found when I was programming the album that I could make the beats as hard as I liked, and in some cases the sounds as extreme as I wanted," he

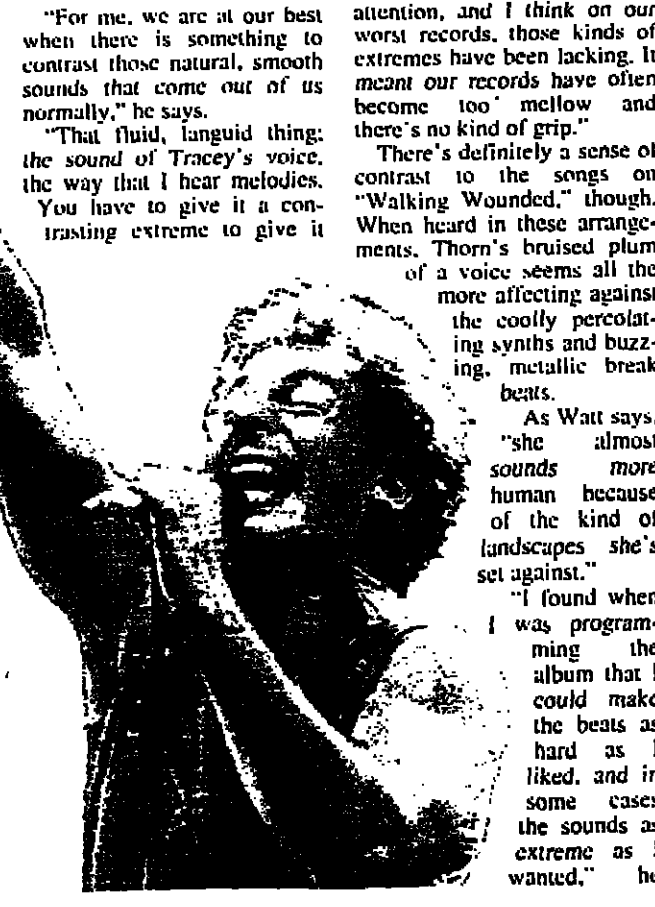
continues. "Like some of those drum sounds right at the beginning of 'Good Cop Bad Cop,' where they almost sound like bedsprings exploding out of the speakers. Each time Tracey comes in, it's like the camera fixes focus on her again, and it's this voice of a real person amidst this neurotic landscape of noise."

"It was something we'd never done before, and I found it really exciting to do."

Doing it live, however, posed quite a challenge for the group—particularly given the disparity between the sound of these new songs and that of the back catalog.

"It was really important, conceptually, when we sat down to plan the tour, to be able to perform both the past and present within the same band," Watt says.

"I didn't want to jettison the past and just program up a dance-heavy tour. So we tried to dream up a really interesting way of doing it, and we came up with the idea of a futuristic beat combo, where on paper it was just like a four-piece band, but it had the flexibility





Queen graduates pilots

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary president of the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College graduated 69 new students. The Queen distributed gifts to the graduates and the long serving members of the college.

The Dean, Dr Tayseer Al Tajee said that the college is a founding member of the international aviation training program "Train Air" which assists developing countries in the field of aviation.



Nasser 56

Legendary character and history of nation

Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

Jamal Abd Al Nasser, the most acclaimed Egyptian statesman ever in the modern history of Egypt, achieved pivotal changes on the Arab political scene. His life and thoughts are now made into a full length feature film. Apart from the many documentaries that were produced to relate the story of Nasser's 23 July revolt, the impressive Egyptian actor Ahmed Zaki is playing the role of the leader in the new production of Nasser 56.

The film, recently completed, was an instant success in Egypt. Only shown in Cairo so far, it has achieved the highest box office sales ever recorded in its first week.

The film has been screened in 17 cinemas in Cairo and is soon to be shown in the rural areas and governorates of Egypt where the great leader was born.

The film focuses on a specific era of Nasser's life. It chronicles the 1956 British, French, Israeli tripartite attack on Egypt and the state's

decision at that time to nationalize the Suez Canal. The two events are considered as turning points in Egypt's modern history.

The film's scenarist Mahfouz Abd Al Rahman said the idea of making the film was brought about by a group of people. "I, Mamdouh Al Laithy, the producer, and Zaki thought of a work of art through which we can present

several enlightening characters in the contemporary history of Egypt." He added that "the strong character of Nasser had a great influence on all of us that we wanted to write about it. The film took 18 months of continuous work at a cost \$841,000."

Zaki excelled in absorbing the character of Nasser. He lived the character over the 18 months of shooting to the extent that he used to become agitated if his colleagues called him by his real name!

The most difficult scene according to Zaki was the nationalization speech. This event required hiring 5000 subordinate characters to act as audience. "Reading the speech needed a constant exercise, something which put me in a perpetual state of anxiety," he added. "I did not get involved in any other film during the shooting of Nasser 56."

The scenario of the film was subject to some changes. Egyptian TV suggested that it would be better not to tackle the private life of Nasser and his wife Tahyeya. But highlighting the political aspect of Nasser's life without at least hinting at his family life would just make the audience feel the cut off.

But a compromise was reached. The number of scenes, in which the famous Egyptian actress, Fardous Abd Al Hameed acts as Tahyeya, was downsized from 15 to 7.

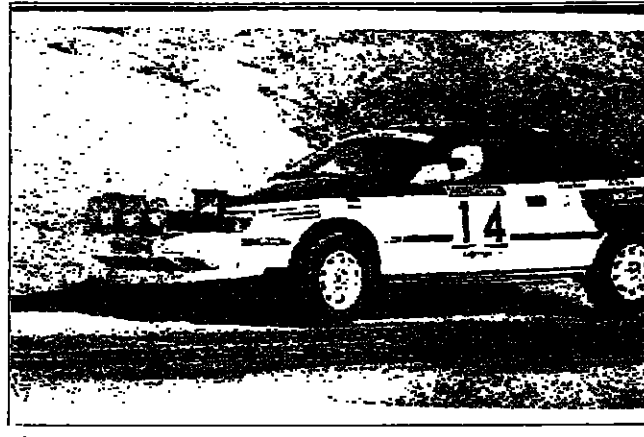
Abd Al Hameed states that because Nasser's wife was not a public figure, playing her role was a bit difficult. "Though penetrating through the character was a tiresome process, I came eventually to love the character," she said. "I asked the help of Tahyeya's daughter Huda who gave me lots of information about her mother's traits, even the way she used to walk."

The film was shot in black and white. This was meant to give a real picture of what life has really been in that era when there was no color TVs. Nasser 56 is one of a series of films written by Abd Al Rahman about Egyptian contemporary resounding characters and acted by Ahmed Zaki. Among other films on the agenda include Anwar Sadat, Ahmed Urabi and Abd Al Haleem Hafez.



Ahmed Zaki

Drivers go for Al Rumman Hill race



THE ROYAL Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) is organizing the Al Rumman Hill car race within the club's 1996 activities. Sixty cars are participating in the event which will start on 16 August. The race is organized in cooperation with Pepsi.

Internationally renowned, there will be drivers from Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Registration for the race closed last week. The final list of entrants was issued on 12 August. His Majesty King Hussein is expected to participate. A three kilometer-long course, it is situated two kilometers north of Al Rumman village.

The highest official record registered by a Jordanian driver was by King Hussein in 1989 who was driving a Mercedes Benz. He won the race by 2:24 minutes. As for the officially highest record, it was made by the Lebanese racer Jean-Pierre Nasrallah in 1:56:42 minutes driving his Lancia Delta Integral last year. The Swedish driver, Steg Blue Begliff, registered the unofficial highest record in 1:53:66 driving his Ford RS 200 in 1989.

The race has gained a reputable position internationally. It is held in accordance with the International sports regulations issued by the Federation of International Automobiles (FIA). The organizing committee includes Hassan Ala' Al Deen, head of the committee, and members: Tarek Al Taba'a, Hani Nasser, Bader Al Rasheed, Waleed Mehlar and Ya'qoub Tabbello.

Fun Club's sharky show!

WITH DISCOVERY Channel's Shark Week (from August 16 to August 23), the Fun Channel will be making its live Fun Club show a special event aimed at creating a better understanding about these increasingly imperilled creatures of the deep. On August 16 at 12:00 noon GMT, tune into the Orbit Satellite Television and Radio Network's children's channel and join Amy, Baz and their fishy friends for a hot edition of this award-winning show.

With your favourite regular features including Inspector Gadget and Wildside, the Fun Club has also got lots of competition, giveaways, birthdays, stories, and some great prizes to be won. Find out which are the five largest sharks in the world and take a different look at this species, surrounded by popular myths, with Fun Club host Baz (who will certainly be looking a bit sharky that day!) There are also some shark videos and all the Fun Club fun to have.

Make a date on August 16 at 12:00 pm GMT with The Fun Channel's Fun Club, and get your pens and paper ready to enter the competitions and be a Fun Club winner. Don't forget that if you want to become an official Fun Club member, or if you want to introduce your best friend to the Fun Club, or if you just want to wish a special somebody a Fun Club Happy Birthday, then post us a letter (The Fun Club, The Fun Channel, P.O. Box 8101, Limassol, Cyprus), or send a fax (357 569 4242), or E-mail (fun.channel@orbil.net) ■

Mines and quarries disturb human and environment



IN COOPERATION with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Jordan Environment Society (JES) conducted an environmental forum on mining and quarrying in Zerqa and the Shomar district last week. The event took place at the Zerqa Chamber of Commerce. Senator Ibrahim Taqi Al Deen and the Governor of Zerqa, Aed Al Qatarni attended the forum.

There are 54 quarries in Zerqa which are used for different purposes: 29 for dumping, one for coarse, 16 for marmor, eight for building stones and two for industrial purposes. Quarries in Jordan are licensed according to the Natural Resource Authority.

Quarries cause a lot of unnecessary damage. They crack houses, invade forests, pollute air, erode soil, cause noise, distort the natural beauty and disturb the ecosystem.

The forum tackled quarries and their negative impact on the environment and people. Topics like quarries licensing procedures, monitoring, health and environmental impacts and the issue of legislation were on top of the agenda.

Quarries are a hot issue in Jordan because of the damage they cause. They destroy the landscape, exist near residential areas and are scattered everywhere rather than centered in few places. ■

Saudi Airlines displays new image

AMMAN (Star)—In celebration of the operation of the new Saudi Arabian Airlines' aircraft with a new logo and color, the Saudi Arabian Airlines in Jordan held last week a reception at the Queen Alia International Airport.

The reception was attended by Mr Nasser Al Lawzi, the minister of transport, Mr Nader Al Thahabi, general manager of Royal Jordanian, Sales Manager of Saudi Airlines, Mr Sami Judeh, General Manager of Saudi Arabian Airlines in Amman, Mr Nizar Sumbul and a number of travel agents. Also attended from the Saudi side was Mr Mohammad Al Bassam.



the charge d'affaires of the Saudi Embassy in Jordan.

The first flight by the Saudi Airbus, A 300-600, one of 11 A 300s in the airline's fleet of 113 Aircraft— with its new logo and color, and a capacity of 258 passengers was to Jordan, Egypt, Cusablanca, Damascus and Dubai.

Saudi Airlines has

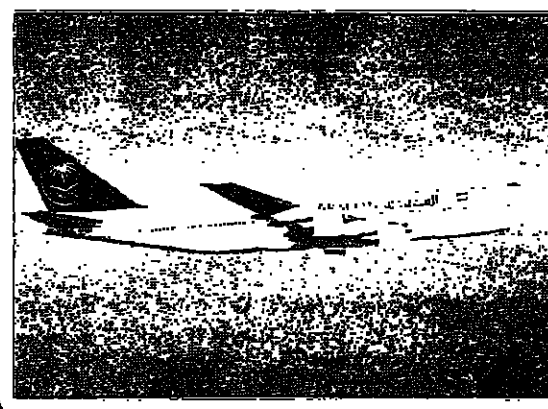
five flights a week, between Saudi Arabia and Jordan. This is added to the 11 additional flights made each month. It was announced that 63 new aircrafts will be added to the fleet in the next three years. Also the old planes are to undergo extensive modernization.

Renewing the logo and color of the Saudi planes comes within the company's efforts to keep up with the international changes taking place in the aircraft industry. This also requires a restructuring of

the administrative board to provide more facilities to passengers. The logo is a reflection of Saudi Arabia's natural aspects.

Unveiling the new colors at a special ceremony held in Jeddah recently Dr Khaled Ben-Bakr, director general of Saudi Arabian Airlines, said the event marks the opening of a new chapter in the airline's 51-year history.

Over a period of time all the aspects of the Airline's identity will move across to the new image including ground equipment, vehicles, ticket offices, uniforms, signs ticket jackets, publications, advertising, and other form of corporate identification. ■



Children Festival starts today in Zerqa

AMMAN (Star)—Jordanians should call on its governmental and NGOs institutions to support all creative children in the country. More encouragement is needed to produce children who are critically aware to contribute to the development of society.

The Children Festival for Art and Culture which starts today, Thursday, is taking place in Zerqa. It is about directing the children's abilities in the right way. The festival will continue till 28 August.

The board of the festival held a press conference in the Zerqa Municipality last week. The meeting was aimed at evaluating last year's festival and how the current event should move forward. Speakers at the meeting stressed the need to have more critical children.

Speaking at the conference was Mr Fayed Al Qasbi, the director of the festival. He briefed the press on the nature of the activities to be held.

Mr Na'eem Haddadin, head of Zerqa Culture Directorate highlighted the importance of Zerqa group for folklore art. He said it made great contribution to the success of last year's festival. However the group will be participating in this year's festival.

The vice president of the festival Mr Shukri Al Hassan argued that the festival in Zerqa should be supported by all.

The festival is a great opportunity. It is holding a wide range of activities. There is the Walt Disney World Group, the Women Union Group and a group from Um Al Hussein

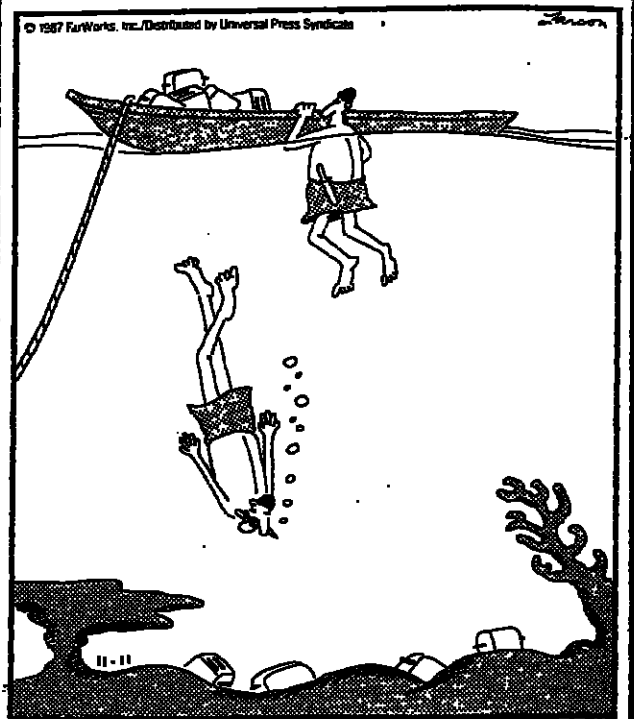


Charitable Society. The activities also include films, plays, lectures and seminars. On the other hand, and in an attempt to encourage children to partici-

pate in the festival, the organizers are granting participants certificates and prizes. Mr Sameer Oweis is responsible for public relations. ■

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



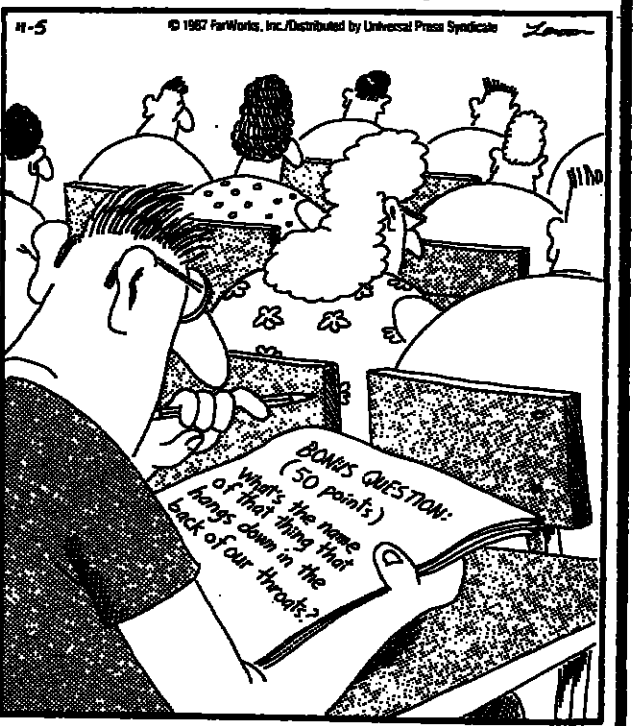
The toaster divers of Pago Pago



"Well, if I'm lucky, I should be able to get off this thing in about six more weeks."



Mutants on the Bounty



Final page of the Medical Boards

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ An exhibition by Hani Al Horani, entitled *People and Places*, at the Baladna Art Gallery, ends today

■ An exhibition by Lina Hani, at Housing Bank Complex Gallery, continues till 31 August

■ An exhibition by Eman Odch, at the Phoenix art Gallery, continues till 20 August

■ An exhibition by Hussain Da'sh and Nader

Samara, at the Orfali art

Gallery, ends today

■ An exhibition by Arab and Foreign artists, at Alia Gallery, ends today

■ An exhibition by Lina Hani, at Housing Bank Complex Gallery, continues till 31 August

Films

■ *Full Metal Jacket*, at The American Centre, today at 5:00 pm.

5 AUGUST 1996

SIDE
ARY LARSON

AUGUST 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

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Half a century of chemical warfare alters the rules between agriculture and insects

Think first, spray later

By Cameron Brandt

THE WIDESPREAD application of DDT and other chemical pesticides from the 1940s onwards was hailed as a new dawn in man's endless struggle with crop-devouring insects. It certainly woke up the brown planthopper.

A relatively minor pest in the rice paddies of Asia, the brown planthopper (*Nilaparvata lugens*) suddenly found that most of its natural predators had been killed off by the relentless application of chemical pesticides. Its population exploded, and by the mid-1980s it was doing damage in the order of US\$700 million annually to Indonesia's rice crop alone. Added applications of pesticide did little to stop this trend.

Asia's experience with the brown planthopper is not unique. Such outbreaks, allied to a growing resistance to chemicals on the part of many pests and the environmental costs of pesticide use, have forced farmers and scientists to reassess the relationship between insects and agriculture. The old view, that with a few exceptions the only good insect was a dead one, is slowly giving way. Instead, the idea that there are minimum levels for insect pests that can be achieved by

careful management is gaining ground.

The relationship between insects and agriculture takes place on several levels, all of which are experiencing change:

► Insects are perhaps best known as agricultural pests. There are an estimated 20,000 species of insects that, because of the damage they do to crops and livestock, can be classified as pests. Even in the age of chemical pesticides, they eat or damage 30 percent of the world's crops. In 1995, an estimated 2.6 million

tons of pesticides with a market value of \$30 billion were used, mostly in support of agricultural production.

► Insects play a key role in the fertilization of many important crops such as oranges, apples and other commercially grown fruits. They are now being used to fight both plant and insect pests.

► As a crop themselves.

Bees have been farmed since antiquity for their honey, and there are now markets for butterflies and insects—such as ladybirds—that

attack other insects deemed pests by farmers and gardeners.

► By carrying diseases that affect humans, insects limit the range and scope of agricultural activity.

► As a source of genetic material for bioengineering of new crop varieties. While this role for insects is still in its earliest stage, it is likely to grow in importance over the next decade.

Of these links, it is the one tying pest species to agriculture that is showing the greatest signs of change.

To control the

into Angola was eventually brought under control by a parasitic wasp.

IPM has a direct cash benefit for both the farmers and the government. By eliminating a subsidy that offset the costs of pesticides by 80 percent, Indonesian authorities saved themselves \$125 million annually. The farmers, meanwhile, are getting higher yields with lower inputs.

Insects can also have a more direct cash return for farmers. The growing interest in microenterprises gives more scope and capital for businesses that "farm" insects for profits. The California Environmental Protection Agency produces a book listing private companies that sell "beneficial organisms"—insects that prey on pests. The 1994 edition listed 95 companies, including the Canadian-based Better Yield Insects and the Rocky Mountain Insectary in the US.

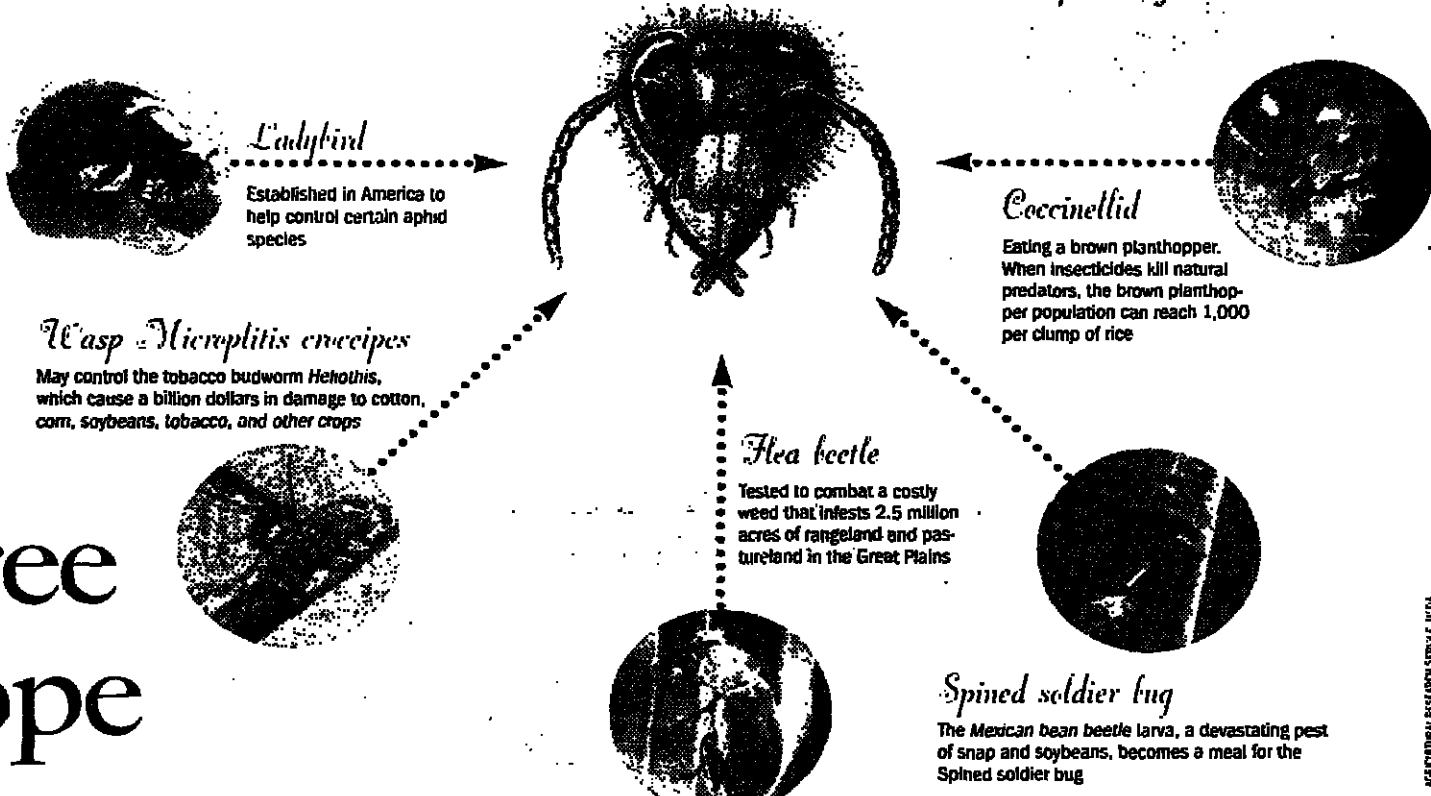
One of the keys to successful operation of IPM and agricultural microenterprises is human capital—experienced, well-trained farmers familiar with the land and the crops they are farming. This human capital, ironically, may be threatened by a resurgence of human diseases that are carried by insects. Foremost of these is malaria, which already claims 2 million lives a year and puts another 100 million people out of action for varying periods of time. Not only is the malarial parasite gaining a resistance to the drugs used to treat it, but the mosquitoes that carry it are frequently immune to common pesticides.

Because of the vicious cycle of resistance and environmental damage associated with pesticide use, the answer to controlling these diseases may lie in genetic engineering. Accounting for some 80 percent of the 1 million species living on earth, insects represent a vast pool of genetic material for this growing field.

While it seems far-fetched that the DNA of an insect might be the key to better cereal crops, one of the earliest successful pieces of agricultural bioengineering involved the use of genetic material from salmon to create tomatoes that stay fresh longer. □

CAMERON BRANDT IS MANAGING
EDITOR OF *The World Paper*.

WANTED! DEAD OR ALIVE



Can't afford pesticides?

Neem tree offers hope

By Omar F. Younes

THE LIGHT SHED by science is not always welcome. Farmers on the island of Leyte in the Philippines sneak out at night to avoid its harsh glare.

These farmers are armed with bunches of twigs from the madre de cacao tree, which they place in their paddies to discourage stem-borer insects. The farmers do not want the insects to eat their crops. Nor do they want to be labeled "backward," their fate if they are seen employing such a traditional method of pest control.

The dilemma faced by farmers in the Philippines is not an isolated one. Explains Saleem Ahmed, a Senior Fellow in the Program of Environment at the East-West Center in Honolulu: "The use of botanical materials (as a pesticide) appears to have fallen not only because of uncertainty of their pest-control effectiveness and the absence of quick action, but also a fear among farmers of being stigmatized as 'backward' for using traditional materials for pest control. In some cases governments have discouraged farmers from using traditional practices out of fear of the same stigma."

Agricultural scientists have begun to look back into botanical pesticides—in which plants' natural properties can control the pests—as a substitute for chemical ones. They are "rediscovering" techniques which farmers have been using for centuries to control pests—with good success.

Ahmed has studied these plants and the "traditional" farmers who have used them, identifying over 2,400 plant species that have pest-control properties. Very few, however, are in use and most of these are found in traditional farm systems. For a plant to be utilized

effectively, economically and safely where it is needed most—in developing countries—Ahmed has created a list of necessary qualities.

"The plant should be: perennial, easy to grow, survive when (its) pest-control properties are harvested, not become a weed or host plant to pathogens or insects and possess complementary economic uses. The pest-control material harvested should: effectively control broad range of target pests, pose no hazard to non-target organisms or the environment, be easy to harvest, formulate, and use with simple village-level technology."

The only plant found to possess all of these requirements is the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*). The neem tree is a slow-growing tree with an often crooked trunk. A mature tree reaches 7-20 meters in height and its dark green leaves can spread out to 5-10 meters.

the grains from "stored grain pests." They either mix a handful of dried leaves in each sack or apply a neem leaf paste inside a container storing the grain. A second popular use derived from the neem tree is the neem cake. The cake is made from residues left after oil is extracted from the neem seed.

Most farmers who use the cake differ from those that use the leaves, according to Ahmed, in that they are, "affluent, educated, and sophisticated farmers who buy this product in the market because they find no synthetic pesticide to be as effective for nematode control."

The neem flourishes in subhumid to semiarid conditions without irrigation and very little rainfall. Native to the Indian subcontinent, the neem tree over decades has been exported to other areas around the world. It is found largely in Africa, South Asia and has recently introduced to Central America and the Caribbean. One of the world's largest plantations is in Saudi Arabia where approximately 50,000 trees have been planted on the Plains of Arafat. Being near Mecca, the trees provide shade to the millions of pilgrims that visit each year.

For all its salutary properties, the neem's role in benefiting mankind may be limited by man himself. WR Grace, the New York based multinational has tried to patent some neem byproducts for commercial gain. A coalition of 200 non-governmental organizations from 40 countries has filed suit in protest. The advance of the modest neem beyond its workaday value for traditional Indian and Pakistani farmers hangs in the legal balance. □

EGYPTIAN-BORN OMAR F. YOUNES
IS CURRENTLY INTERNING AT *The World Paper*.

Neem tree

ters. It was discovered over 1,000 years ago by the Arab scholar Abu Mansur, from Baku. The scientific name, *Azadirachta*, is derived from the 1,000 year-old Persian/Urdu name, *Azad Dirakht*. Admired for its uses, the name means the "noble" or "free" tree.

According to Ahmed, the extracts from the neem control over 250 pests, including mites, rice stem-borers, the cotton boll worm and termites. In a survey conducted in 1988, Ahmed found that 50 percent of 500 farmers in India and Pakistan use neem leaves to protect

Undoing a royal folly

Moths save Thai waters

By James Fahn

FEW RELATIONSHIPS are as ambiguous as that between humans and insects: sometimes they are allies, sometimes enemies.

In Thailand, no one knows that better than Banpot Napompheth, a US-trained entomologist and one of the country's leading experts on biological control. As executive director of the National Biological Control Research Center (NBCRC), during the last two decades he has overseen the importation of over 30 insects for use in controlling harmful pests and plants which have run wild.

Banpot is certainly aware of the dangers involved in importing foreign species. In fact, many of the projects he oversees are expressly designed to halt the rampant growth of plants and animals which have already found their way into Thailand and thrived at the expense of native species, and the local economy. But he believes the benefits outweigh the risks. "When people ask me about the dangers of biological control methods, I like to ask in return if they have considered the hazards of using pesticides and other chemicals," he explains. "Often, they haven't."

The most recent project carried out by the NBCRC entailed importing the water hyacinth moth (*sameodes albiguttalis*) to control the explosive growth of a plant which has clogged waterways and become a serious problem for both water-borne transport and dispersing flood waters.

The water hyacinth plant, native to South America, was originally brought to Thailand nearly a century ago by a royal consort, who came across it on a trip to Java and became entranced by its beautiful flower, according to Banpot. The plant was brought back to Thailand and clippings were handed

out to favored friends.

When it began to grow prolifically, some of the plants were dumped in canals, from whence they have spread all over the country, and indeed the region. A few years after the plant was introduced to Thailand, a law known as the Water Hyacinth Act had to be enacted making it illegal to help propagate the water-borne weed. Nevertheless, and despite continuing efforts by the army, the navy and other authorities to clear the canals, the water hyacinth continues to run riot.

The humble moth has therefore been enlisted into the battle. It feeds on the leaves, and then lays eggs which hatch into larvae that eat the plant's innards, particularly parts vital to the plant's growth.

This moth is the third insect to be imported to Thailand by the NBCRC

process. The water hyacinth has been around for nearly a 100 years, and the weevil only 20. But I do believe it has been more successful than similar projects in the US. There is a much higher number of weevils per sample," he explains, picking up a rather wilted and battered-looking hyacinth plant being studied at the institute's main office on the campus of Kasetsart University in Bangkok.

Banpot pulls apart some of the shoots, displaying several weevils, which being nocturnal creatures scurry to get out of the sunlight. Then he points out some larvae buried deep in the core of the plant. "We brought the second and third predators because they feed on different types of hyacinth plants. The moth, for instance, goes after the smaller variety." He adds that these projects were also carried out at least partly for research reasons.

Although there are commercial outfits which sell insects that can be used for biocontrol, Banpot doesn't support them on principle. Insects should be considered part of the public domain

Like many of the insects imported by NBCRC, the water hyacinth predators originated in South America, but came to Thailand via research contacts in Florida. "Most of the weeds and plants which have infested Thailand originate in South America. If you talk about grasses, they usually come from the Mediterranean area," Banpot says. "And of course there are plants from Southeast Asia which have spread around the world and become pests elsewhere."

Although there are commercial outfits which sell insects that can be used for biocontrol, Banpot says he doesn't support them on principle. Insects, and

► THAI WATERS PAGE 2

"Prevention is better than cure"

Africa looks beyond pesticides

By McOwiti O. Thomas

FARMING in sub-Saharan Africa is fraught with difficulties and economic risks. The usual culprits are frequent droughts and declining soil fertility. However, equally bad—if not worse—are the numerous insect pests that destroy a substantial portion of the continent's food production every year.

Over three-quarters of the species living on earth are insects. The majority of them live in the tropics where climatic conditions favor their survival. As a result, insects and related arthropods such as mites are one of the key factors limiting agricultural productivity in the tropics.

Insect pests are as old as agriculture itself. Those that feed on crops did so long before these useful plants were domesticated. Records of devastating locust plagues appear in the Bible. However, the relationship between insects and crops has changed little over the years. What is changing rapidly is the way this relationship is managed.

What's a pest?

According to Charles Omwega, an insect scientist at the Nairobi-based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), only a few of the millions of insects are pests. Indeed, most of them play a key role in sustaining life on earth. An insect becomes a pest only when it competes directly with humans for food or leads to economic losses. Even harmful insects become pests only when their economic damage to crops reaches intolerable limits.

Insect pests affect food productivity directly by reducing the quality and quantity of the crop produced or indirectly by serving as vectors for plant (as well as human and animal) diseases. In Africa, losses due to insect damage range from 25-40 percent of the crop, reaching 80 percent in serious cases. Yet according to experts, without a 4 percent annual increase in food production the continent may face an 80 million metric ton food shortfall by 2020.

The traditional way to fight insect pests is by chemical pesticides. But George Oduor, a Kenyan scientist working with the International Institute for Biological Control, says the experience of the 50 years that synthetic pesticides have been in existence has shown that their widespread use has serious implications for health and the environment. Moreover, insects have a seemingly endless ability to develop re-

sistance to any form of synthetic pesticide—thanks mainly to their ability to breed in vast numbers.

Scientists, recognizing that "prevention is better than cure," are developing more environment-friendly techniques to fight these enemies. One technology that embraces this philosophy is classical biological control (CBC), an old technique whose aim is to "manage" pests rather than eradicate them. According to Omwega, biological control agents are usually specific to certain pests, so CBC employs "beneficial" insects to control "non-beneficial" ones and maintain them at an economically acceptable level.

A major pest of maize and sorghum in eastern and southern Africa is the spotted stem-borer (*Chilo partellus*), which was accidentally imported into Africa in the 1930s. In 1993, ICIPE and the Kenya Agricultural Research

Institute released a tiny, exotic wasp, *Cotesia flavipes*, which is a natural enemy of the borer, to control it. By entirely natural means, *Cotesia* is able to cut the borer's reproductive cycle, but it cannot eliminate it altogether as the wasp is specific to *Chilo*; if it kills all the borers, it loses its own means of survival. Thus the balance between pest and predator is maintained—the principle of CBC.

The IPM solution

Of the numerous alternatives tried out in the recent past, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is showing the greatest promise. IPM was developed after World War II as an alternative to synthetic pesticides, but its widespread application has only just begun in Africa. Among its most ardent enthusiasts is the African Highlands Initiative (AHI), a regional effort to enhance nat-

ural resources management in the highlands of East and Central Africa.

IPM seeks to maintain the natural checks and balances that exist in nature. Again, it aims to manage pests rather than eradicate them. Like CBC, the idea is to limit pest numbers to levels where they are economically tolerable. It employs several different techniques: the management or manipulation of the habitat to reduce pest numbers, cultural practices such as crop rotations and mixing different crops, careful selection or development of plants with resistance to pests and diseases, and improving soil fertility so that crops get enough nutrients to stay healthy and able to fight off diseases.

IPM allows the judicious use of agro-chemicals, but only as a last resort, and the use, dosage and application are carefully adjusted to produce localized and specific effects on target

pests. Both ICIPE and AHI are currently targeting those pests that destroy food crops that are most vital to the African farmer: maize, sorghum, beans, cowpea and banana.

Given the attention focused on fighting insect pests, it is easy to forget the beneficial insects. Hans Herren, ICIPE's director general, believes that the time has come to look at the other side of the coin, at the positive contributions of arthropods, and how to conserve these "good" insects through better understanding and utilization.

ICIPE has two projects on "commercial insects"—beekeeping and silkworm rearing. These are not new technologies, yet they can be useful income generating options in a larger strategy for poverty alleviation, particularly for women and rural communities. Both have no known negative effects on the environment, require little initial investment, and are particularly attractive for communities living in marginal areas, where the risk of crop failure is high.

Beneficial uses of insects can stretch the definition of agriculture even farther, as in the case of butterfly "farm-

ing" on the Kenyan coast. Known as the Kipepeo (Swahili for butterfly) project, it aims to alleviate the dependence of the people living along the edges of the Arabuko-Sokoke forest on conventional crop farming, which was prone to annual damage. Currently, the project involves over 140 farmers, who now rear butterfly pupae for export to Europe and North America besides their normal agricultural activities.

At \$1 per insect pupa, it is more lucrative than conventional agriculture. ☐

McOWITI O. THOMAS WORKS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN AGROFORESTRY IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

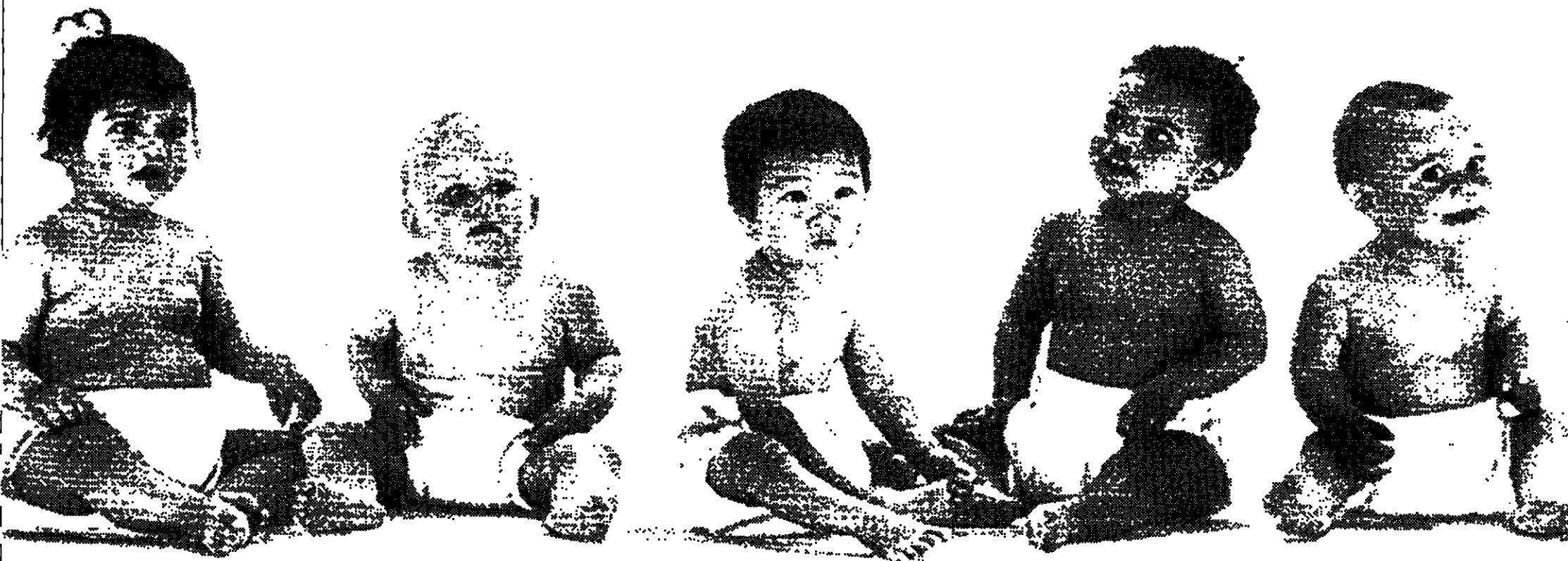
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food for thought



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Supermarket to the world

THAI WATERS

Continued from page 1

presumably other species, should be considered part of the public domain, according to the researcher.

When biocontrol agents are first brought into Thailand, Banpot says they are run through extensive tests to make sure they only feed on the host at which they are aimed. "We run tests in quarantine with 30 different types of economic plants to see if the insects prey on them," he explains. "If there is any doubt about the results, we destroy the colony."

Asked whether he has ever been accused of bringing in harmful insects, Banpot says that just at the time the first weevil was brought in, there was an outbreak of a rice-eating weevil.

"Some non-scientists pointed the finger at us, but it was a different species. These water hyacinth weevils don't eat rice," Banpot has a kind of "insect cemetery" in his office where he preserves the original specimens of imported insects to be used as evidence in case of any future accusations.

Meticulous and self-confident by nature, Banpot's experience is useful in Thailand, where regulations are weak and outdated, and law enforcement often lax. Banpot also serves as chairman of the National Biosafety Council, but laments that he is often ignored by higher authorities.

Thailand's potential for developing biotechnology and using biocontrol is huge with its rich biodiversity and sizable pool of manpower skilled in medicine and agriculture. But of course it would take only one small mistake to create an environmental disaster. ☐

JAMES FAHN IS THE ENVIRONMENT EDITOR AT *The Nation*, AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY NEWSPAPER IN THAILAND.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV
from 17-23 August

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Moomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
3:45—Blue Heelers
4:30—Big Brother Jake
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Torkelsons
8:00—The Album Show
8:45—Miami Vice
9:10—Prism (local)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *The Color Purple*, starring: Danny Glover and Whoopi Goldberg

SUNDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—The Mask
3:25—Bush School
3:35—Mac and Mutley
4:00—Italian Soccer
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Cinema, Cinema
8:00—The American Chart Show
8:45—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
9:10—Black's Magic
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Frenchie
11:40—Short Story Cinema
12:10—Nelson's Column

MONDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Adventures On The Rainbow Pond
3:30—Richie Rich
3:45—Playabout

4:00—Gillette World Special
4:30—Hey Dad
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna
8:00—Milton Fenwick
8:10—Matlock
9:10—Autism—A world Apart
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold & The Beautiful
11:10—Mancuso FBI

TUESDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Iris
3:20—Captain Planet
3:40—Hot Shots
4:00—Bob Morrison show
4:30—AII
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Blossom
8:00—On A Day—Thousands of Years Ago
8:30—Encounter
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Human Target
11:15—Haw 5-0
11:45—My Two Wives

WEDNESDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Iris
3:20—The Flintstones
3:25—The New Three Stooges
3:30—The Adventurers
4:00—Kelly
4:30—The Earth Revealed
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs



Maria Carey in The Album Show, on Saturday at 8:00 pm

7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Evening Shade
8:00—Super Stars of Action
8:30—Chancer
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold & The Beautiful
11:10—Bugs

THURSDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Double Dragon
3:35—NBA Basketball
4:30—Take Your Pick
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines

FRIDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Dumb and Dumber
3:30—Bush School
3:45—Name your Adventure
4:10—Crystal Maze
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines

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PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI
5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Pyramide
6:00—Série
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Fant pas rêver
-Lisbonne-

DIMANCHE
5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Pyramide
6:00—Magazine
La marche du siècle
«Le désert, sables ému-
vants», 1ère partie
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI
5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Pyramide
6:00—Magazine
La marche du siècle
«Le désert, sables ému-
vants», 2ème partie
7:00—Le journal

7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
6:00—Variétés
Hommage à Michel Berger
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Ushuaia

MERCREDI

5:00—Documentaire
La France aux 1000 villages
«La Haute-Garonne»
5:30—Variétés
L'invité de marque
«Claude Nougaro»
6:00—Documentaire
Roule rouler
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

JEUDI

5:00—Divertissement
«Le festival interna-
tional du cirque»
5:30—Divertissement
Surprise Surprise
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Ushuaia
8:00—Variétés
Taratata
«Bon Jovi»

VENREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Téléfilm
«L'instinct de l'ange»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Allo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Cinema

"GRUMPY OLD MEN" (Warner, \$103.91): In the latest of their several screen teamings, Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau are back together as the long-fueding neighbors in this sequel to their 1993 comedy hit. Ann-Margret, Burgess Meredith, Daryl Hannah and Kevin Pollak also return... but new to the mix is veteran beauty Sophia Loren, playing a lady who tickles the fancy of Matthau's crusty character. *** (PG-13; AS, P)

"THE ADDICTION" (PolyGram, \$96.99): Vampirism causes the title condition in the case of this melodrama, featuring Lili Taylor ("I Shot Andy Warhol," "Mystic Pizza") as the otherworldly being who struggles to lead as normal an existence as possible... as proven by her efforts to acquire a philosophy degree. Christopher Walken and Annabella Sciorra ("The Hand That Rocks the Cradle") also appear. ** (Not Rated; AS, P, V)

"HELD OVER: 'CASINO'" (MCA/Universal, \$100.71): Robert De Niro and director Martin Scorsese yield yet another memorable collaboration with this big-scale drama of racketeering in Las Vegas, with the actor playing the operator of one of the city's most popular gambling dens. He has to ward off those who would oust him, with the love of his life (Oscar nominee Sharon Stone) a liability to him; Joe Pesci also appears. *** (R; AS, P, V)

"NICK OF TIME" (Paramount, \$99.12): Unfolding in real time, as it would in actual life, director John Badham's thriller casts Johnny Depp as a businessman blackmailed by two crafty villains (Christopher Walken, Roma Maffia) into participating in a political-assassination plot. If he doesn't cooperate, his young daughter—who's been kidnapped by them—will be killed; Marsha Mason also is featured. ** (R; P, V)

"POWDER" (Hollywood, \$100.71): A bit controversial at the time of its release—since its writer-director Victor Salva was revealed to have been involved in a child-abuse case years earlier—this fantasy-drama deals with a decidedly unusual, light-pigmented youth (Sean Patrick Flanery) who can channel and transmit pure energy; Mary Steenburgen, Jeff Goldblum and Lance Henriksen also appear. *** (PG-13; P, V)

COMING SOON: "BI-DOME" (MGM/UA, June 11): Pauly Shore and Stephen Baldwin play offbeat friends accidentally placed with scientists to live inside a dome for a year. (PG-13)

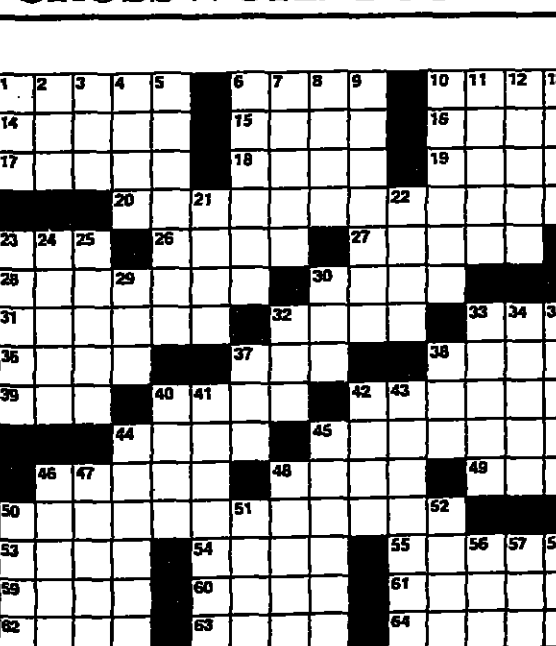
"FATHER OF THE BRIDE, PART II" (Touchstone, June 11): Dad's (Steve Martin) in a quandary when both his wife (Diane Keaton) and daughter become pregnant at the same time. (PG)

"LAWNMOWER MAN 2: JOBE'S WAR" (New Line, June 11): The sequel to the virtual-reality thriller finds the exploited gardener (Matt Frewer) wanting revenge. (R)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Piece dish
6 Grassy
10 Humley or
14 Valuable
15 Frozen
16 A Turner
17 Synthetic
18 Waste
19 Too
20 Slazy
21 Rialto sign
26 Noley
27 Scandian
28 Primrose's
30 Quots
31 Podliss
32 Highland
33 Attention
36 Ooze

DOWN
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42 WWW II
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Down
64 Advance
1 GOLF term
2 Lone
3 Cowhand
4 At the peak
5 At last
6 Shows
7 Harsh
8 Abound
9 Tallin's land
10 Actress ina
11 Auras
12 Follow
13 New Mexico
14 art town
21 Kings: Fr.
22 Distinction
23 Frigthen
33 Locate
34 Hall U.
35 Savor
37 Olympus
38 Hawaiian
40 Wyatt of the
old West
41 Man of the
cloth
42 Grandiose
43 Using a car
pedal
44 Nap
45 Site of Mt.
McKinley
46 Writer
47 Gertrude
48 Spartan serf
49 Oust
50 Anatoxins
51 Selves
52 Cklatrx
56 St.
57 Ms. West
58 Old times, to
poets

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The sun's still in Gemini—an excellent time for scholastic endeavors.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Your new knowledge will impress an older person. Buy something to make your job easier.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). A gorgeous foreigner draws your attention. This could be an excellent relationship. Ask questions so you can figure out a technical assignment.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Discuss your financial situation with an older person. Don't worry about a supervisor's ultimatum—nothing will come of it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You and a friend may have to work together to get what you want. Stop by City Hall to get a legal matter settled. Don't wait.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). A tough job interferes with your entertainment plans. Postpone your club meetings and parties.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Consult your sweetheart or a dear friend and get the support you need to handle a tough assignment.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be fabulous with words. You may feel like you're getting nowhere. Just keep plugging away.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't have to wait until your next raise to start earning money. Study something you can use now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your best friend isn't going to help you save money. You'll have the patience for research. You're smart, but you'll run into more problems.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have extra stamina for paperwork. You won't give up, even if it's tough. Get an electronic gadget to make it easier.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do a job you've been avoiding. Launch new projects. Solve a complicated problem. Count your money—there may be less than you thought.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Your friends can help you settle a domestic dispute. Get a friend to help you untangle paperwork. If you wait, it'll be even more difficult.

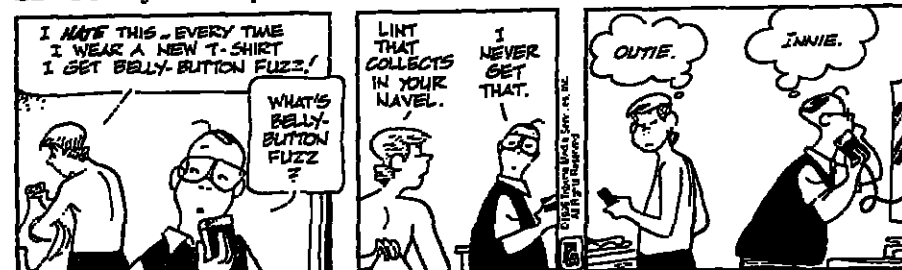
If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Travel and higher education are easy and fun. You may even get a book published. Finish projects already started and take care of an older person. Your rewards come later.

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PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Ben Templeton & Tom Forman



CATFISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NASPY
GINOG
QUINUE
NAHVIS

Print answer here: _____

Answer: PANSPY, GINOG, QUINUE, UNHIS

Words of Wisdom

Acts of kindness are precious because they cannot be bought.

If you borrow trouble, you may soon end up possessing it.

Grief is a natural process that allows people to mourn the death of a loved one and go on living; but indulgence of that grief will consume what is left of your life.

You can tell you're cynical when you'd rather win an argument than be right.

Idleness has a way of filling up all available time.

If you have to sing your own praises, you'd better put together a new act.

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Bridge

Down For the Count
By Tannah Hirsch

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 10 2

♥ A 10 4

♦ 6 5 3

♣ Q 8 7 4

EAST

♠ J 8 5 4 3

♥ K 8

♦ J 10 9 4 2

♣ 6

SOUTH

♠ K Q 6

♥ Q J 2

♦ A Q

♣ K J 9 5 2

The bidding:

South

INT

Pass

West

Pass

North

3NT

Pass

East

Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

Follow the play of this hand. Was it played at duplicate or rubber bridge, and how did you come to your conclusion?

The auction was straightforward. Regardless of whether North-South were employing a 15-17 or 16-18 range for their one-no-trump opening bids, with 10 points, a couple of tens and a balanced hand, North was full value for a jump raise to three no trump.

West led a low heart, ducked in dummy. East won with the king and shifted to the jack of diamonds; declarer tried the queen, losing to West's king, and a diamond return removed declarer's only stopper. On gaining the lead with the ace of clubs, West led another diamond and East scored three more tricks in the suit for a two-trick set.

You were correct if you decided the hand cropped up in a pairs contest. Since declarer was a 3-to-1 favorite to make overtricks if either red king is onside, no duplicate player of any skill could afford to pass up such an opportunity.

At rubber bridge, however, declarer should take the cash and let the credit go. Regardless of how the clubs are distributed, declarer can take four tricks in the suit, by simply playing a high club from hand when the suit is first led.

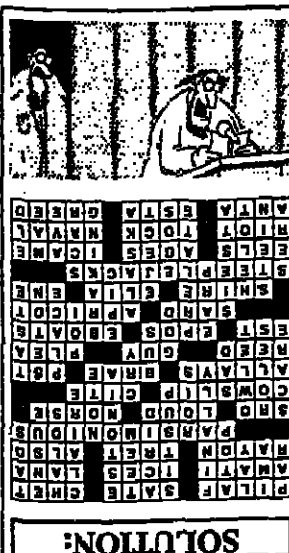
An experienced money player would rise with the ace of hearts at trick one and lead a club to the trick. When both defenders follow, declarer continues the suit to force out the ace, and later has time to set up a second heart trick since West holds the ace of clubs. In all, declarer will collect three spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs for an over-trick.

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SLAPSTIX

If you don't make waves, you're not under way.

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LIFE IS LIKE A
10-SPEED BIKE.
MOST OF US
HAVE GEARS
WE NEVER
USE.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

La Jordanie réchauffe ses liens avec le Golfe

La rencontre dimanche du roi Hussein avec le roi Fahd d'Arabie saoudite (notre photo), la première depuis la guerre du Golfe en 1990, a consacré la réconciliation entre les deux pays. Le but de ce voyage était, selon une source jordanienne, de réussir à obtenir «des résultats tangibles importants tant au niveau politique qu'économique».

Les relations entre la Jordanie et l'Arabie saoudite se sont nettement améliorées depuis août 1995, après avoir été tendues à la suite de l'invasion du Koweït le 2 août 1990, Ryad accusant le régime d'Amman de s'être rangé aux côtés de l'Irak.

Selon le Premier ministre jordanien Abdel Karim Kabariti, cette visite devrait aussi contribuer à la normalisation des relations entre la Jordanie et le Koweït. «Nous avons expliqué clairement à nos frères du Koweït notre position qui n'était en aucun cas dirigée contre eux au cours de l'invasion irakienne», a déclaré Abdel Karim Kabariti dans une interview à un quotidien koweïtien. Selon ce journal, le roi Hussein aurait demandé au souverain saoudien de déployer des efforts pour permettre une réconciliation entre le Koweït et la Jordanie.

Au cours de leurs entretiens, les deux souverains ont aussi discuté de la paix au Proche-Orient et des moyens de renforcer la lutte contre le terrorisme.



Gaza

La fin du gel israélien jette un froid

La récente décision israélienne ayant pour but de faciliter les implantations juives dans les territoires palestiniens apparaît comme une reprise officielle de la politique de colonisation gelée depuis 1992. Et cette extension des colonies inquiète les Palestiniens.

Le gouvernement

Israélien a annoncé au début du mois d'août un plan d'intensification de la colonisation dans les territoires palestiniens de Cisjordanie et de Gaza. Si officiellement aucun nouveau projet de colonisation ne doit être décidé, il est désormais beaucoup plus facile d'obtenir une autorisation pour un projet de construction, toute une série d'obstacles administratifs ayant été levée.

Ainsi, la première étape préparée par les deux ministères israéliens du Logement et des Infrastructures nationales consiste à occuper 3000 appartements vacants en Cisjordanie et à Gaza pour y faire habiter plus de 10.000 personnes. Le gouvernement israélien a décidé de geler une décision antérieure prise par l'ancien Premier ministre Itzhak Rabin en 1992 qui avait choisi de stopper la «colonisation politique».

Mais en fait, les mesures prises par Benjamin Netanyahu diffèrent de celles prises par le gouvernement travailliste que par leur caractère officiel. Le gouvernement de Peres avait commencé au lendemain des accords de paix un processus de colonisation intensif afin

d'imposer un nouveau statut. Les derniers mois ont ainsi été marqués par de nouvelles confiscations de terres palestiniennes. Le nouveau ministre des Infrastructures nationales, Ariel Sharon, a lui-même annoncé la construction de deux autoroutes en «Judée et Samarie», les noms bibliques de la Cisjordanie. Des routes de long desquelles, selon certains journaux israéliens, de nouvelles constructions pourraient apparaître.

L'objectif est d'isoler les villes et les villages palestiniens sous contrôle de l'autorité palestinienne afin de créer des zones ressemblant aux *bantoustans* d'Afrique du Sud.

C'est le fameux ministre Ariel Sharon, en charge du portefeuille des Infrastructures nationales, qui dirige officiellement cette colonisation. Il veut, selon les termes de l'écrivain pacifiste israélien Uri Avenuri, empêcher la création d'un Etat palestinien en Cisjordanie et à Gaza en découpant les territoires en petites îles entourées de colonies israéliennes.

Une des plus fortes densités au monde

Ce processus ne se limite pas

aux territoires des zones A et B de Cisjordanie désormais sous contrôle de l'O.L.P., mais concerne aussi la bande de Gaza. Beaucoup de gens ont tendance à croire qu'il n'existe plus ici de colonies et sont surpris d'apprendre que 18 colonies israéliennes occupent 35% de la bande de Gaza. Sur ces terres vivent environ 5.000 personnes alors que sur les 65% d'espace restant se masse environ un million de Palestiniens, soit l'une des plus fortes densités de population au monde avec 2.200 habitants au kilomètre carré.

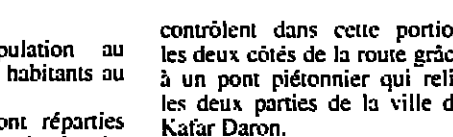
Ces colonies sont réparties sur l'ensemble de la bande. Elles se divisent en trois parties. Les colonies du nord abritent la zone industrielle d'Erez. A deux kilomètres du village palestinien de Beit Hanoun. C'est là que se trouve l'administration militaire israélienne, la cour militaire chargée de juger les Palestiniens résidant à Gaza ainsi que les autorités délivrant les précieuses cartes magnétiques permettant aux ouvriers palestiniens d'aller travailler en Israël. C'est à Erez que se trouve le poste de frontière avec Israël.

La deuxième grande zone de colonisations se situe elle à un kilomètre de Dayr-al-Balah, en bordure de la route principale reliant le nord de la bande de Gaza au sud. Les colons contrôlent dans cette portion les deux côtés de la route grâce à un pont piétonnier qui relie les deux parties de la ville de Kafar Daron.

Enfin, la colonie du sud est la plus importante avec une zone très peuplée connue sous le nom de Gush Katif dont l'entrée a fait plusieurs fois l'objet d'attaques suicides. Des colonies qui sont à l'origine de nombreuses tensions quotidiennes avec la population palestinienne. Des tensions qui sont aujourd'hui encore plus inquiétantes avec les nouvelles décisions concernant la colonisation.

«Si la colonisation se poursuit, cela conduira à une nouvelle intifada populaire», prévient déjà la ministre palestinienne du pouvoir local, Saeb Iritak.

La colonisation dans les territoires palestiniens connaît un nouvel essor.



De Gaza, Hassan Balawi

Politique

Un pain devenu brûlant

Alors que le gouvernement vient finalement d'entériner la hausse de 250% du prix du pain, les tensions s'accroissent au sein du Parlement ainsi qu'entre certains députés et le gouvernement.

L'angoisse d'une

crise imminente domine le Royaume ces derniers jours suite au refus du gouvernement d'annuler ou de modifier sa décision concernant l'augmentation du prix du pain et du fourrage pour les animaux. D'une part les tensions se sont multipliées entre les pouvoirs exécutifs et législatifs et d'autre part des divisions entre les députés eux-mêmes commencent à apparaître. Contrairement aux députés de l'opposition qui refusent tout compromis sur cette question, les centristes cherchent eux à trouver une solution plus pragmatique.

Et en dehors des couloirs du Parlement, le malaise commence à se faire sentir, notamment au sein de certaines tribus bédouines qui s'estiment particulièrement touchées par cette augmentation.

La semaine dernière, une délégation de la tribu Bani Sakher a manifesté devant le bâtiment abritant le conseil des ministres, présentant ensuite un mémorandum au Premier ministre dans lequel elle lui demandait de revenir sur sa décision. Beaucoup estiment en effet que le déficit budgétaire ne s'explique pas par un trop-plein d'aides gouvernementales mais par la corruption qui existe dans ce pays.

Tout en soutenant la décision du gouvernement et en la qualifiant de logique et réaliste, un député centriste qui préfère garder l'anonymat, n'écarter pas la possibilité d'un malaise grandissant entre le gouvernement, le Parlement et le peuple. La hausse du prix du pain et de celle d'une centaine de produits alimentaires pourraient déboucher sur des troubles sociaux. Car il ne faut pas oublier, selon lui, que la grande majorité des bédouins ne vit que du

commerce des moutons et brebis.

Pour ce député centriste, l'augmentation du prix du pain est judicieuse compte-tenu du déficit budgétaire que connaît le royaume. Mais elle pourrait contribuer à élargir le fossé existant non seulement entre le peuple et le gouvernement, mais aussi entre le gouvernement et le Parlement.

Pas d'autre alternative

Depuis le vote parlementaire de la semaine dernière au cours duquel 24 députés se sont opposés à toute augmentation, la tension est plus grande entre le gouvernement et le Parlement. Les députés centristes, dont une majorité souhaitait modifier la décision gouvernementale, ont proposé d'amener le prix du pain à 150 fils, soit le double du prix actuel, au lieu des 220 fils décidés par le gouvernement. Beaucoup considèrent depuis qu'ils n'ont pas réussi à défendre les intérêts de leurs électeurs. Dans un éditorial de l'hebdomadaire *Bilad*, Khaled Mahdadin décrit comment certains habitants de Kérak l'ont supplié d'écrire un article élogieux sur le député Nazih Amarin qui était le seul parmi qua-

tre députés de Kérak à s'être opposé à la décision du gouvernement.

Plusieurs analystes ont prévu dans les journaux la chute prochaine du gouvernement de M. Kabariti à cause de son incapacité à obtenir le soutien du Parlement.

Certains trouvent des similitudes entre le gouvernement actuel et celui de Taher Masi qui n'avait duré que six mois en 1989. D'autres analystes ne voient comme conséquence à cette crise qu'une cote de popularité accrue pour les députés de l'opposition.

Sa'eda Kilani

250% d'augmentation

Après près de deux mois de discussions, le gouvernement a finalement décidé lundi d'augmenter le prix du pain de 250%, une décision entrée en vigueur dès mardi. Le prix du kilo de pain de qualité supérieure, celle que l'on trouvait couramment jusqu'à présent, est passé de 85 fils (environ 65 centimes) à 220 fils (environ 1,50 franc), une qualité inférieure de pain étant désormais vendue au prix de 180 fils le kilo (1,3 franc).

Cette décision devrait permettre de mettre fin à une politique de subventionnement du pain qui coûtait au budget jordanien 138 millions de dollars par an (environ 700 millions de francs).

Le gouvernement a décidé de compenser cette augmentation par une allocation mensuelle de 1,28 dinar par citoyen jordanien. Avec ce système d'allocation, le gouvernement a calculé qu'il économiserait 46,6 millions de dollars chaque année par rapport au montant des subventions qu'il distribuait jusqu'à présent.

Sport

La Jordanie veut oublier Atlanta

De retour d'Atlanta, la délégation olympique jordanienne s'est retrouvée au centre d'une polémique, non pour ses résultats, mais pour son manque d'organisation et de sérieux.

L'atterrissage à

Amman a été plutôt dur pour le ministre de la Jeunesse Mohammed Daoudieh et le secrétaire général du Comité olympique jordanien (COJ), le Dr Mouafak al Fawaz, après trois semaines de rêve à Atlanta. A leur retour, ils ont en effet découvert que les performances et autres boudes de leurs athlètes avaient été largement médiatisées dans le pays et que beaucoup se demandaient franchement quelle image avait pu donner la Jordanie à ces Jeux américains du centenaire.

Ce ne sont pas les performances mêmes des athlètes qui sont en cause. Aucun sportif jordanien ne s'étant qualifié grâce à ses résultats sportifs pour cette compétition, tous bénéficiaient d'invitations du Comité international olympique. Dans ces conditions, ils ne pouvaient qu'espérer participer et non rivaliser avec les autres compétiteurs. «Beaucoup ont oublié de rappeler cette réalité», explique Mouafak al Fawaz. «Nous n'étions pas là pour ramener des médailles avec six athlètes. En fait, sur les 197 pays présents à ces jeux, seuls 80 ont ramené une médaille». Et l'image du jeune nageur jordanien Omar Dallal terminant 50 mètres derrière tout le monde dans un 400 mètres n'a, selon Mouafak al Fawaz, rien de négatif. Elle symbolise pour lui au contraire «l'esprit olympique par excellence. A ce moment-là, les spectateurs ont acclamé le nageur jordanien comme ils l'ont fait pour tous les compétiteurs dans toutes les disciplines, qu'ils soient premiers ou derniers».

La polémique engagée par les médias ne porte pas en fait sur les performances des athlètes jordanien. Elle se concentre sur le manque de sérieux de certains des responsables de la délégation olympique. L'histoire du porte-drapeau de la délégation jordanienne, le ju-

doka Walid Al Awazem, est à cet égard assez éloquent.

Absent de la séance de presse obligatoire, celui-ci a tout simplement été disqualifié et n'a même pas eu le temps de mettre son kimono. En essayant de comprendre pourquoi il ne s'était pas présenté à la pesée, le COJ a découvert que son entraîneur, Khaled Rifai, ne lui avait pas donné les bonnes indications. En fait, Khaled Rifai n'est autre qu'un ancien élève de Walid Al Awazem qui, en se faisant nommer entraîneur, a trouvé le moyen d'aller à Atlanta. «Tout cela est stupide», reconnaît Mouafak al Fawaz. «Cet entraîneur n'était pas du tout qualifié. On aurait dû intervenir les rôles en nommant Walid Al Awazem entraîneur». Car, une fois à Atlanta, le judoka jordanien s'est en effet révélé hors-série en raison d'une blessure contractée en Syrie peu avant les Jeux alors qu'il était en stage. Mais craignant de ne pas prendre l'avion pour les Etats-Unis, il aurait alors préféré garder le silence, étant à la Jordanie toute chance de représentation dans cette discipline.

Pour Mouafak al Fawaz,

tous ces incidents ne revêtent que peu d'importance. En 1988, déjà, un athlète jordanien resté au lit avait oublié de se rendre à une compétition. Tout le bruit que suscite aujourd'hui cette histoire de judoka ne tient, pour lui, qu'à la volonté de certains de régler leurs comptes.

Une attitude qui ne laisse que peu de place à toute remise en question et qui ne devrait pas déboucher sur de grands changements dans l'avenir. Si l'objectif annoncé est d'essayer d'améliorer les performances des sportifs jordanien, ce n'est pas pour les Jeux asiatiques qui auront lieu en 1998, les moyens d'y parvenir restent encore flous.

Seule une commission d'experts jordanien devrait, à l'invitation du Comité olympique international, se rendre prochainement à Lausanne pour élaborer un projet de développement du sport en Jordanie. Un dossier qui semble désormais particulièrement intéresser le ministre de la Jeunesse qui devrait, dans les semaines à venir, se pencher sur les dysfonctionnements constatés à Atlanta.

Olivier Briz



La ville d'Atlanta ne restera pas pour la délégation olympique jordanienne un très bon souvenir.

Analyse

Le Liban préfère «l'économie d'abord»

L'option israélienne «Liban d'abord» a été au centre de nombreux pourparlers diplomatiques ces dernières semaines pour le règlement du conflit israélo-syrien. Mais au pays du cèdre, c'est l'économie qui continue à dicter la politique étrangère.

On a beaucoup

parlé ces dernières semaines des propositions du gouvernement israélien concernant le règlement du conflit avec la Syrie. Sous la devise «Liban d'abord», Israël a tenté de ouvrir le dossier libanais en proposant de discuter d'un retrait israélien au Liban-Sud avant d'engager des négociations sur un retrait du plateau du Golan, occupé depuis 1967 par l'Etat hébreu et annexé en 1981.

Cette politique israélienne bilatérale de négociations a marché avec les Egyptiens, les Palestiniens et la Jordanie. Mais la situation du Liban est différente. En voulant forcer la guerre ou la paix, Israël a déjà échoué dans les années 80 au Liban et l'Etat hébreu continue de se heurter à un mur libanais des plus solides.

La position libanaise ferme vis-à-vis d'Israël est en grande partie due à la situation économique du Liban. Avec une dette extérieure de seulement 1,3 milliard de dollars, un excédent de la balance des paiements et des réserves officielles en or estimées à 3,6 milliards de dollars (sans compter les devises), la position économique du Liban n'est franchement pas désespérée. Les pressions venant de l'extérieur sont donc moins efficaces contre un Liban assez solide.

Mais tout de même, les problèmes économiques existent au Liban et les espoirs des années passées concernant un nouvel essor économique sont aujourd'hui évanouis. Le tab-

leau ci-dessous traduit une situation plutôt morose: si les chiffres sont toujours bons, les tendances sont elles inquiétantes. Cela signifie que l'économie en 1995 était en générale plus faible qu'en 1994 et l'on craint que 1996 soit encore plus difficile.

Les attaques israéliennes des mois d'avril et les pressions constantes ont encore affaibli la situation économique du Liban. Et aujourd'hui, les incertitudes autour des élections législatives contribuent à mettre encore plus de pression sur l'économie. Prévue pour s'étaler à partir du 18 août sur cinq semaines, ces élections font l'objet de nombreuses controverses, notamment en ce qui concerne la nouvelle loi électorale approuvée à dix jours du scrutin. La date de la tenue de ce scrutin reste en fait jusqu'au dernier moment assez aléatoire. Le Premier ministre libanais Rafic Hariri ayant simplement précisé que les élections auraient lieu avant la fin, le 5 octobre, du mandat de l'Assemblée sortante.

Une économie toujours dynamique

Donc, malgré les aléas incontestables de l'économie libanaise, la conjoncture actuelle est pleine d'incertitudes. Le climat d'investissement est beaucoup moins intéressant que fin



A l'image du centre-ville de Beyrouth en pleine reconstruction, le Liban peut compter sur une économie toujours dynamique.

1992 après les dernières élections législatives et la nomination de Rafic Hariri. Il y a quatre ans, la situation à Beyrouth était très prometteuse. Aujourd'hui, tout le monde se montre plus pessimiste en raison de problèmes internes au pays et n'ayant rien à voir avec le voisin israélien.

La part jouée par le secteur public dans l'économie et celle du secteur privé sont au centre de beaucoup de difficultés. Le gouvernement libanais fait beaucoup pour animer l'économie mais certains redoutent aujourd'hui qu'il souhaite remplacer les entreprises privées. Sous le régime du laissez-faire qui prévalait avant la guerre en 1975, l'Etat avait une position modeste dans l'économie. Aujourd'hui, il est parfois difficile de distinguer les intérêts de M. Hariri de ceux du secteur public et du pays.

L'autre grand problème actuel du Liban est le manque de confiance de beaucoup d'expatriés. Ayant quitté le pays entre 1975 et 1991, ils ont pour la plupart jeté les fondations de nouvelles affaires un peu partout dans le monde.

Or, ils hésitent à présent, en

L'économie libanaise en chiffres

	1993	1994	1995
Taux de croissance du Produit intérieur brut	7%	8,5%	7%
Excédent de la balance des paiements (en millions de dollars)	1.170	1.130	256
dette extérieure (en millions de dollars)	327	772	1.291

Souhail Al Sweis

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Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Orthodox Club	810491
Haya Arts Centre	665195	Royal Automobile Club	815410
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Y.W.M.A.	664251	Royal Chess Club	673713
Dar al Fann	643252	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Alia Art Gallery	639303	Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Beldina Art Gallery	657132	Amman Mun. Library	636111
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Kuwaiti	675135/8
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Moroccan	641451
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Norwegian Embassy	644932/4
Omani	686155
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Sri Lanka, Consulate	645312
South Korean	660745/6
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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Marketing on the Internet, part two:

May I pay for your attention, please!

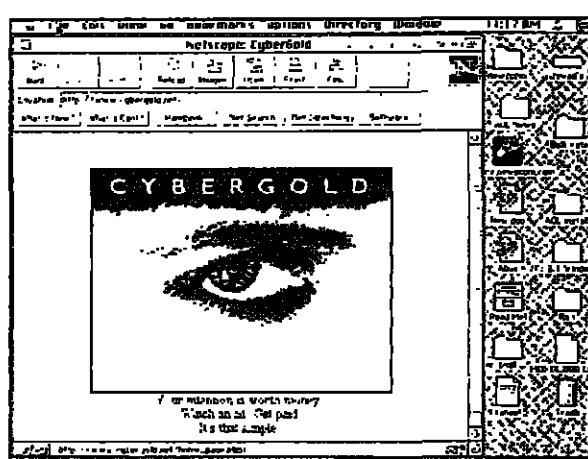
By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

IN HIS book "The Road Ahead," the president of Microsoft heralded the advent of what he called "a friction-free capitalism." Mr. Gates predicted that the proliferation of information technology and the increasing popularity of the Internet will do away with the ever-disked middlemen. As people will be increasingly capable of logging on to the Internet to visit first hand the web sites of different companies, they will no longer need a middleman to explain the product or service or to arrange for delivery or payment. For the Internet offers the ability to purchase products directly and to request more information on these products by simply filling electronic forms at a company's web site.

Companies ranging from service providers to car makers have established web sites on the Internet for exactly that purpose: reach directly to your customers and cut out the middlemen. These web pages might actually do the trick and reduce the need for conventional middlemen in performing business. However, whether the Internet will really evaporate the need for middlemen will still be highly debatable. The Internet, it seems, will require its own new kind of middlemen. This is because the exponentially growing information on the Internet will surely have companies and information

providers anxious about whether their little corners in this vast and virtual market place are actually being visited. The market for attention will therefore be open for middlemen. Internet's middlemen—unlike the conventional middlemen—will not market or arrange for transactions but will

they would like to know more about. When registered users log on to the Internet, they will be faced with advertisements that display information on products in which they have explicitly expressed interest. Not only that, but the advertisers will have attached a bonus for reading their advertisements: users get free gifts or cash for viewing the ad. Of course, advertisers make sure that the users have actually read the ad by requesting a form of feedback to be filled.



CyberGold argues that by targeting individuals that are already interested in their products, advertisers get an efficient new tool for selling their products and services.

The cost associated with paying the users for their attention is justified as the aggregate sum of all paid "incentives" will still be less than the cost of a conventional mass marketing campaign. Furthermore, this new method of marketing introduces the new concept of "orthogonal advertising," where the content of a web site will no longer matter in deciding whether to place an ad or not. This new advertising method will give each registered user the advertisements pertaining to his interests. No longer will advertisers ponder upon

rather make their money by helping in attracting much needed attention to a company's web site or products.

This trend towards the virtual middleman is already taking place, as the example of the newly launched CyberGold shows. CyberGold's business is to "connect those who want attention to those who are willing to pay attention." The company (<http://www.cybergold.com>) offers free registration to Internet users who are interested in selling their attention to advertisers. The users fill out a questionnaire that pools information on their interests and type of products

Internet Technology and the new concepts:
Java, and the new internet eraBy Khaldoun Al Aqqad
Special to The Star

The WWW is an organization of information that can be distributed and collected globally, at the press of a button. It is the place where the thoughts, ideas and researches of millions of people are non-linearly associated.

With millions of people joining the Internet society each year, the WWW is growing in popularity and is changing the on-line world. Through the use of Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML), the concept of user selectivity was introduced to the Internet.

Moreover, last year turned the limited interaction into full visual and dynamic real-time interaction, with the introduction of Java. It is the Internet programming language from Sun Microsystems. It is a new programming language that has been totally developed for Internet technology enhancement.

Java is centered around the concept of client/server computation and is aimed at distributing platform-independent content that is executable content over the Internet.

This means that users who have PCs, Macintosh systems, Sun systems or any other platform, virtually, will be able to execute programs that have been developed on some other platform, which would normally be incompatible.

Java has a long list of features that ranges from basic user

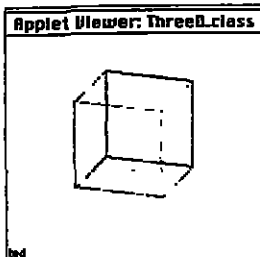
requirements to very deep programming concepts, that are needed to satisfy special user needs.

Through using Java applets or Java applications and with the aid of Java enabled browsers, users can distribute text, sound, graphics, user inputs and very complex animated games and graphical programs.

Java is a universal Internet development tool. Accordingly, the vast collection of file formats and network protocols were considered with the design of Java. Through the use of the Dynamic Object Type, developers can add new file formats to Java programs without the need to write special code. Moreover, through the use of "protocols handlers," new network protocols can be handled very easily.

In addition to this universality, Java has been developed with security in mind, such that the use of Java programs can give complete confidence in its security system. Users need not fear the violation of their security.

An interesting field for end users is Java Script. With Java script, normal users are able to author their own web pages, in a similar way they are used to with HTML. Java Script is not complicated like Java applications or applets, but has some of their basic facilities like executable content distribution and better interaction.



Applet Viewer: ThreeD.class

As industry leaders see it, development using Java will be somewhat delayed and it's a long way before reaching the requirement stability.

One point is that Java is still in its first version and Java compilers are not so common. There are few compilers and Java-enabled browsers under Windows 95, like Semantic Cafe Lite, Navigator 2.0 and Hot Java. There are none for Windows 3.11 and Macintosh.

Still, there is more Java support appearing all the time. MetroWorks declared that the next version of Code Warrior will support Java Development. Apple announced that it licensed Java Virtual Machine from Natural Intelligence Inc.'s and will be supporting Java as soon as possible.

An additional point is that mastering Java is not an easy thing to do. First, Java is object oriented, which requires a higher learning overhead from developers around the world. Lack of Multiple Java sources is another barrier. The nature, and universality of Java adds more steepness to the learning curve, especially with Java depending on basics like multi-threading, and exception handling. Developers must give their feedback concerning Java. Java creators must keep in mind the rising problems and try to solve them. The next couple of years, I believe, will raise Java as a super Internet development language. People in the Middle East will be very interested in keeping up with Java development. This is important as the Internet software market will be built on Java and Internet browsing services. ■

Shopper's Show at METS '96

THE JORDAN Computer Society (JCS) has announced that their will be a special Shopper's Show, parallel to the activities of the Middle East Technology Show (METS '96) this November.

The idea is to provide visitors with the opportunity to purchase their needs of hardware, software and accessories on the spot. Up until this year, METS '96 did not include a separate Shopper's Hall. This year, the Arman International Show Hall will be divided into two parts. The first will be the METS '96 Show proper, which will include the larger information technology companies (solution providers), while the other part will be the Shopper's Show including the re-sellers and the smaller companies.

Another objective behind the creation of the Shopper's Show is to restrict the METS '96 Show Hall to trade and business visitors, who matter to exhibiting companies, while allowing visiting enthusiasts and home users to go for their interests in the Shopper's Hall. Normally, shopper's shows offer special discounts to buyers, on all sorts of products. In any case, this is a new experiment for Jordan Computer Society, which should enrich METS '96 as an all-round IT event for all types of computer users. ■

Graf finds herself back at no. 1 origin

By Julie Cart
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. —Funny how life sneaks up on you when you're not looking, leaving behind its lessons.

Upon her return to the tournament at which she became No. 1 for the first time, Steffi Graf finds herself sifting through memories she left behind as an 18-year-old and then wondering: Now what?

It was 1987, at the tournament now called the Acura Classic that begins Monday at the Manhattan Beach Country Club, that Graf surprised herself and rose to No. 1. She would stay there for an unprecedented 186 consecutive weeks and would, in May of this year, set a record for total weeks as the world's No. 1 tennis player.

None of this was known to the skinny German teenager then; in fact, what she didn't know was remarkable. No one around Graf was paying close attention to the computer points she was racking up while winning the tournament.

"My father kept telling me, 'No, it's not going to be enough,' so I didn't worry about it," Graf said, relaxing at a Manhattan Beach coffee shop the other day. "I didn't know I became No. 1 until after the match. Everybody was kind of trying not to tell me. I still can't figure out why I didn't realize it. I've never been somebody who would count the points. Then, it was much more simple. You don't really look at it like, 'Can you achieve it? Will you achieve it? You want it. That's it.'"

After the match, Graf celebrated by going to the beach with three people she cared about: her father, coach and brother.

"I just ran up and down the beach, full of joy," she said. "I never thought I could get to No. 1 until that moment. Being No. 1 never again meant as much to me as that time."

Life, with all its attendant complications, was never so simple again. As a tennis player, from that moment on Graf ratcheted up her standards and expectations so that she may not have ever again experienced such a pure pride in her achievement.

Tender moments with her father were also counting down. Peter Graf remains in a German prison awaiting trial next month on tax evasion charges.

Graf, 27, knows full well how things have changed since she won that tournament in 1987 and how different she is from that 18-year-old. She's quick to note the good that has come from her professional career, which began when she was 13.

"I think I've become more outgoing, maybe more satisfied with myself," she said. "At 17-18, I was very quiet. Of course, you mature over the years. It's normal. Maybe because of success and the life I've been living. I think I've changed a lot."



"I've never really had a lot of friends. I was always keeping to myself and being quiet. I haven't had the easiest time in school. The younger you are, the more you get hurt by other kids. The more success you have, the more you get hurt by them. That's how I started to close up, because I was hurt by other kids. It was my first lesson."

Graf practised in the mornings before school. So that she wasn't late, she was driven to school. Children who arrived on a bus thought Graf was trying to be special. When Graf missed weeks of class at tour-

naments, other children were jealous. They never saw her doing homework in hotel rooms.

Graf's sense of isolation didn't change when she joined a tour then dominated by 20-somethings.

"When I got on the tour, I was so young and everybody was so much older," Graf said. "Now, it happens more frequently at that age. Then, it was a little rare. But I was also being shy and keeping to myself. One thing I have learned: It's difficult to forgive sometimes."

Her age and her success plotted a course for Graf that did not allow her to mingle easily with other players. While they were happy to play hearts or

tournament cities.

After 14 years on the professional tour, Graf has settled into a traveling pattern that makes the road bearable. Her world has never been confined to practice courts and room service.

"I'll never be the kind of person who just stays in the hotel," she said. "I couldn't live just being in the hotel room and on the court. A lot of players do that. I would go nuts if I had to play singles and doubles in every tournament—I would be sitting on the court all day. How would I be happy with that? You can't. It's the same faces all the time. There's nothing else. I can't understand how players do it. I'm sure they are happy with what they are doing and I'm sure it's right for them. I'm only saying that from my point of view, it's not how I would do it."

Graf has been criticized for her insular approach to her sport. In the absence of Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, both of whom took an active role in tour politics, some say there is a leadership vacuum that should naturally be filled by the No. 1 player.

Graf says she's operating in the only way she can that will get her through, that her personality is not suited to governing. Others say the responsibilities of being No. 1 require from her more commitment to the tour.

"The thing is, I've never really cared much about the tour," Graf said candidly. "I play, do the press, then I'm out of there. I've always been that kind of person. I know I've been criticized for that, but I need to take some time for myself, otherwise I couldn't deal with it."

There's so much more to deal with now, Graf's body served her well but has been complaining for the last few years. Back, knee and foot injuries have been chronic. She has missed the beginning of the season—and the Australian Open—for the last two years because of injuries.

"I wish I would have known a lot more of what I know now," she said. "Weightlifting, stretching—I hated those things. To me, it was only the game on the court. I knew about what I should be doing, but I said, 'I'll be fine.' The

thing is, I never had any injuries until a couple of years ago."

Graf has just returned from her most recent injury, tendinitis in her left knee, which prevented her from participating in the Atlanta Olympics, much to her dismay.

Graf watched the opening ceremonies on television in Germany, then felt pangs of regret.

"I was so upset, I said, 'Can I still get in?'" she said. "I have never been as disappointed at not being able to participate in a tournament as I was for two or three days. I have such respect for the Olympics and the athletes in it. There were so many inspiring moments. Not always the winning, but also the disappointment. I felt so sorry for Jackie Joyner-Kersey."

Graf no doubt identified with

Joyner-Kersey's thwarted attempt to win her final Olympic title, only to be injured. Retirement is a pesky topic for Graf, who is being haunted by her own youthful pronouncement that she could not imagine playing tennis after about 26 or 27.

"It's funny how when you are 17 or 18, you really think 25 is old," Graf said, laughing. "It's natural that I get asked, 'I watched it happen to Chris and Martina.'"

Thus, reporters were puzzled at Graf's comments after she on her seventh Wimbledon title and her 20th Grand Slam tournament. No, she said, she is not looking at records. Doesn't think about them. Some thought Graf was being self-effacing but she was being in the moment. There will be time later to reflect on records.

"They always say, 'Keeping



it is going to be a lot harder than achieving it," she said. "But it's (ranking) never been my main focus. I've always been more driven to perform well, more than anything else. Which is probably why I'm looking at it differently than anyone else."

Three months before Paris and Wimbledon, people were asking me, 'How will it feel to

win the 100th title? I'm like, give me a break. Maybe it meant a lot more to me when I was younger."

Would the 18-year-old Graf have frolicked on the beach at the mere thought that she might win Wimbledon seven times?

Probably. And the 27-year-old Graf would be icing her back because of it. Another of life's lessons. ■

Baseball negotiations hit slight snag

By Ross Newhan
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MAJOR LEAGUE baseball owners will not totally reverse their labor defeats of the past in the proposed settlement with the players union, but they would emerge with what seem to be significant and beneficial changes in the economic system.

Among them:

- A payroll tax to help curtail spending by the high-revenue clubs, slowing salary growth.

- A revenue-sharing formula by which the high revenue clubs will contribute to the economic viability of the low-revenue clubs, improving competitive balance.
- A tax on player salaries in the first two years of the plan, raising about \$50 million for their revenue-sharing pool.
- The use of a three-man panel to decide arbitration cases, rather than the often bizarre whims of a single arbitrator.
- A possible reduction in the union's share of the divisional playoffs from 80 percent to 60 percent.
- With all of that and more, it was apparently still not enough for some hard-line owners on Monday.

Two issues kept a potential settlement on hold.

- Barring a major tradeoff in return, owners remained reluctant to restore ser-

vice time to the players for the 75 regular-season days they were on strike at the end of the 1994 season and beginning of the 1995 season.

■ The refusal of the union to waive damages and all litigation filed against the owners during the strike as a trade-off for service time. A management negotiator said he didn't think this would prove to be a deal-breaker, but it did produce what he called a "cooling off" in talks.

Randy Levine, management's lead negotiator, spent three hours updating the owners' labor policy committee and several more hours in calls to recalcitrant owners. He met with union leader Donald Fehr for only an hour Monday night, but Fehr said it would be a mistake to read anything into that.

"From time to time you need to pause for reflection and planning and to meet with your own people," he said. "We'll talk to Randy by phone tomorrow morning and get together again tomorrow afternoon."

Levine said the sides remained "within striking distance" of a settlement but "there are still issues to be compromised, and if you rush them or are not precise, both sides can suffer."

The union has said there won't be a deal unless service time is restored, as it has been in previous stoppages.

It's important, Fehr said, "because players have short careers, and service time relates to eligibility for free agency, arbitration, the pension and certain trade

requirements. If you want peace, you put people at the level they would have been (if it hadn't been for the strike)."

With the addition of the 75 lost days, 20 more players would be eligible for free agency at the end of this season, including Chuck Knoblauch, Bernard Gilkey, Moises Alou and Alex Fernandez.

This, however, was the longest and costliest stoppage yet, and many owners — 21 are needed to ratify an agreement — oppose returning service time without a significant tradeoff.

That tradeoff, in this case, takes the form of owners asking the union to drop all damage and litigation claims that stemmed from the National Labor Relations Board citing the owners with unfair labor practice for illegally declaring an impasse and changing work rules in the winter of 1994, during the heart of the 234 day strike.

A union lawyer said the players can't waive those damage claims "because people were wronged. Some of them were young. Some of them are out of baseball now."

Is there a compromise in the two positions? Probably. "It's true some owners don't want to give up service time, but I think it's something we can talk about (with the union)," said John Harrington, CEO of the Boston Red Sox and a member of the labor policy committee.

"It's a major issue, but it should not be a deal-breaker." ■